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**Title: Dysregulation of external globus pallidus-subthalamic nucleus network dynamics in parkinsonian mice during cortical slow-wave activity and activation**

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## Key points

- Reciprocally connected GABAergic external globus pallidus (GPe) and glutamatergic subthalamic nucleus (STN) neurons form a key network within the basal ganglia.
- In Parkinson's disease and its models, abnormal rates and patterns of GPe-STN network activity are linked to motor dysfunction.
- Using cell class-specific optogenetic identification and inhibition during cortical slow-wave activity and activation, we report that in dopamine-depleted mice 1) D2 dopamine receptor expressing striatal projection neurons (D2-SPNs) discharge at higher rates, especially during cortical activation 2) prototypic parvalbumin-expressing GPe neurons are excessively patterned by D2-SPNs even though their autonomous activity is upregulated 3) despite being disinhibited, STN neurons are not hyperactive 4) STN activity opposes striatopallidal patterning.
- These data argue that in parkinsonian mice, abnormal, temporally offset prototypic GPe and STN neuron firing results in part from increased striatopallidal transmission and that compensatory plasticity limits STN hyperactivity and cortical entrainment.

## **Abstract**

Reciprocally connected GABAergic external globus pallidus (GPe) and glutamatergic subthalamic nucleus (STN) neurons form a key, centrally-positioned network within the basal ganglia. In Parkinson's disease (PD) and its models, abnormal rates and patterns of GPe-STN network activity are linked to motor dysfunction. Following the loss of dopamine, the activities of GPe and STN neurons become more temporally offset and strongly correlated with cortical oscillations below 40 Hz. Previous studies utilized cortical slow-wave activity and/or cortical activation (ACT) under anesthesia to probe the mechanisms underlying the normal and pathological patterning of basal ganglia activity. Here, we combined this approach with *in vivo* optogenetic inhibition to identify and interrupt the activity of D2 dopamine receptor-expressing striatal projection neurons (D2-SPNs), parvalbumin-expressing prototypic GPe (PV GPe) neurons, and STN neurons. We found that in dopamine-depleted mice 1) the firing rate of D2-SPNs was elevated, especially during cortical ACT 2) abnormal phasic suppression of PV GPe neuron activity was ameliorated by optogenetic inhibition of coincident D2-SPN activity 3) autonomous PV GPe neuron firing *ex vivo* was upregulated, presumably through homeostatic mechanisms 4) STN neurons were not hyperactive, despite being disinhibited 5) optogenetic inhibition of the STN exacerbated abnormal GPe activity 6) exaggerated beta band activity was not present in the cortex or GPe-STN network. Together with recent studies, these data suggest that in dopamine-depleted mice, abnormally correlated and temporally offset PV GPe and STN neuron activity is generated in part by elevated striatopallidal transmission, while compensatory plasticity prevents STN hyperactivity and limits cortical entrainment.

## Introduction

Reciprocally connected GABAergic external globus pallidus (GPe) and glutamatergic subthalamic nucleus (STN) neurons form a key, centrally-positioned network within the basal ganglia, a group of subcortical brain nuclei critical for the execution of motivated, goal-directed, and habitual behaviors (Mink & Thach, 1993; Yin & Knowlton, 2006; Redgrave *et al.*, 2010; Keeler *et al.*, 2014; Nelson & Kreitzer, 2014; Klaus *et al.*, 2019). The GPe and STN are components of the so-called “indirect pathway”, which emanates from D2 dopamine receptor expressing GABAergic striatal projection neurons (D2-SPNs), traverses the GPe and STN, and terminates in the GABAergic basal ganglia output nuclei, the internal globus pallidus (GPi) and substantia nigra *pars reticulata* (SNr) (Albin *et al.*, 1989; Gerfen *et al.*, 1990). Cortical (or thalamic) activation of D2-SPNs leads through the indirect pathway to increased inhibition of basal ganglia targets, which was traditionally thought to suppress movement (Albin *et al.*, 1989; Maurice *et al.*, 1999; Frank *et al.*, 2004; Tachibana *et al.*, 2008; Kravitz *et al.*, 2010). Indeed, sustained optogenetic activation of D2-SPNs rapidly arrests motion (Kravitz *et al.*, 2010). However, recent studies argue that indirect pathway activity is required for the generation of action sequences, possibly through the suppression of competing actions and termination of selected actions. Thus, D2-SPNs are recruited during natural and trained behaviors, and inhibiting them impairs the performance of action sequences (Cui *et al.*, 2013; Sippy *et al.*, 2015; Barbera *et al.*, 2016; Carvalho Poyraz *et al.*, 2016; Lambot *et al.*, 2016; Lemos *et al.*, 2016; Tecuapetla *et al.*, 2016; LeBlanc *et al.*, 2018; Markowitz *et al.*, 2018). The STN is also a component of the so-called hyperdirect pathway, which rapidly relays cortical excitation to the basal ganglia output nuclei (and GPe) (Nambu *et al.*, 1996; Maurice *et al.*, 1999; Nambu *et al.*, 2002; Degos *et al.*, 2008; Tachibana *et al.*, 2008; Kita & Kita, 2012). This pathway is also critical for motor control, possibly through the rapid constraint of competing actions and/or stalling of actions during decision making (Mink & Thach, 1993; Baunez *et al.*, 1995; Nambu *et al.*, 2002;

Aron & Poldrack, 2006; Isoda & Hikosaka, 2008; Engel & Fries, 2010; Schmidt *et al.*, 2013; Jahanshahi *et al.*, 2015; Zavala *et al.*, 2015).

In Parkinson's disease (PD), abnormal GPe-STN network activity is linked to the expression of motor symptoms, specifically akinesia, bradykinesia, and rigidity (Albin *et al.*, 1989; Hammond *et al.*, 2007; Quiroga-Varela *et al.*, 2013; McGregor & Nelson, 2019). The classic view is that loss of midbrain dopamine neurons leads to elevation of D2-SPN activity, which leads to increased inhibition of GPe neurons, disinhibition of STN neurons, and increased basal ganglia output, which suppresses movement (Albin *et al.*, 1989; Mink & Thach, 1993; Kravitz *et al.*, 2010). However, firing rate changes in the parkinsonian basal ganglia are often moderate in nature or absent, and in some cases opposite to those predicted by the classic model (Bergman *et al.*, 1994; Wichmann *et al.*, 1999; Ni *et al.*, 2001; Goldberg *et al.*, 2002; Leblois *et al.*, 2006; Ryu *et al.*, 2011; Nelson & Kreitzer, 2014; McGregor & Nelson, 2019; Willard *et al.*, 2019b). The reasons for these inconsistencies are unclear but could relate to species and technical differences in PD models, variation in recording and cell identification approaches, the influence of brain state and behavior on network dynamics, and homeostatic compensatory cellular and synaptic plasticity. The therapeutic efficacy of high-frequency stimulation of the STN or GPi for the treatment of parkinsonism further challenges the rate foundation of the classic model (Chiken & Nambu, 2016; Wichmann & DeLong, 2016; McGregor & Nelson, 2019).

In idiopathic and experimental PD, the GPe and STN exhibit an increase in correlated, phasic activity (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Walters *et al.*, 2007; Mallet *et al.*, 2008a). Thus, synchronous pauses in discharge and burst firing are relatively prevalent (Quiroga-Varela *et al.*, 2013; Sanders *et al.*, 2013). In addition, these activity patterns can recur irregularly *or* rhythmically at frequencies between 1-35 Hz depending on the mode of dopamine depletion, species, behavior, and/or brain state (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Kuhn *et al.*, 2009; Devergnas *et al.*, 2014; Delaville *et al.*, 2015; Sharott *et al.*, 2017). Excessively correlated firing is thought to impair the network's capacity to encode information (Hammond *et al.*,

2007; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b). Indeed, neuronal activity exhibits a marked reduction in somatotopic specificity in parkinsonism (Bergman *et al.*, 1994; Cho *et al.*, 2002; Pessiglione *et al.*, 2005; Leblois *et al.*, 2006; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Nambu, 2011; Ketzef *et al.*, 2017). The activity of the reciprocally connected GPe and STN can also become temporally offset, which given the convergence of these nuclei onto the GPi and SNr, may pathologically synchronize basal ganglia output (Bevan *et al.*, 1994; Shink *et al.*, 1996; Walters *et al.*, 2007; Moran *et al.*, 2011; Tachibana *et al.*, 2011; Shouno *et al.*, 2017). The consistently therapeutic effect of manipulations that decorrelate network activity, e.g. STN deep brain stimulation or dopamine-based medications (Brown *et al.*, 2001; Heimer *et al.*, 2002; Sharott *et al.*, 2005; Eusebio *et al.*, 2012; Whitmer *et al.*, 2012), further support the linkage between excessively correlated GPe-STN network activity and motor dysfunction in PD. *However, the origins of parkinsonian GPe-STN network activity remain poorly understood.* Hyperactivity (Mallet *et al.*, 2006; Kita & Kita, 2011b; Moran *et al.*, 2011; Escande *et al.*, 2016; Sharott *et al.*, 2017) and (mal)adaptive plasticity of D2-SPNs (Day *et al.*, 2006; Taverna *et al.*, 2008; Gittis *et al.*, 2011; Fieblinger *et al.*, 2014), loss of autonomous GPe and STN activity (Zhu *et al.*, 2002; Wilson *et al.*, 2006; Chan *et al.*, 2011; Hernandez *et al.*, 2015; Shouno *et al.*, 2017; McIver *et al.*, 2019), increases in the strength of GPe-STN inputs (Moran *et al.*, 2011; Fan *et al.*, 2012; Chu *et al.*, 2015), and/or downregulation of hyperdirect cortico-STN inputs (Mathai *et al.*, 2015; Chu *et al.*, 2017; Wang *et al.*, 2018) have each been hypothesized to play important roles. GPe and STN neurons are also considerably more complex than once thought, e.g. although the majority of GPe neurons do project to the STN, “prototypic” GPe neurons also project to basal ganglia output neurons, midbrain dopamine neurons, and to the striatum where they preferentially target GABAergic interneurons (Bevan *et al.*, 1998; Mastro *et al.*, 2014; Saunders *et al.*, 2016). In addition, “novel” classes of GPe neuron have been identified recently (Hernandez *et al.*, 2015; Abecassis *et al.*, 2020), among them arky pallidal neurons which as a group comprise one quarter of all GPe neurons and project only to the striatum (Mallet *et al.*, 2012; Abdi *et al.*, 2015; Dodson *et al.*, 2015).

Previous studies in rats utilized cortical slow-wave activity (SWA) and/or sensory stimulation-evoked cortical activation (ACT) under urethane anesthesia to probe the impact of stereotyped patterns of cortical activity on the dopamine-intact and -depleted basal ganglia (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Walters *et al.*, 2007; Mallet *et al.*, 2008a; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Zold *et al.*, 2012; Sharott *et al.*, 2017). Cortical SWA and ACT under anesthesia, are analogous to cortical activities associated with natural sleep and arousal, respectively (Steriade, 2000). Cortical SWA is characterized by rhythmic (~ 1 Hz) periods of synchronous activity and inactivity of cortical projection neurons, whereas cortical ACT is characterized by sustained depolarization and desynchronization of cortical projection neurons following sensory-evoked stimulation of the reticular activating system (Steriade, 2000). Here, we combined the anesthetized preparation with cell-class specific optogenetic interrogation. First, well-established mouse cre-driver lines were used to selectively express the inhibitory opsin Arch-GFP in D2-SPNs, parvalbumin (PV)-expressing prototypic GPe (PV GPe) neurons, or STN neurons. Then, optogenetic inhibition and multi-site silicon probe recording were employed to selectively identify and transiently suppress the contribution of each cell class to normal and abnormal GPe-STN network activity in dopamine-intact and -depleted mice, respectively. Finally, to determine whether loss of autonomous firing (Chan *et al.*, 2011) could contribute to alterations in prototypic GPe neuron activity *in vivo*, the firing of genetically identified PV-GPe neurons was compared in *ex vivo* brain slices from control and dopamine-depleted mice using non-invasive, cell-attached patch clamp recording.



## Materials and Methods

### *Ethical approval*

The present study conforms to the principles and regulations of *The Journal of Physiology*. Experiments involving mice were carried out in compliance with the Northwestern University and University of Bordeaux Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC protocols; Northwestern: IS00001278 and IS00003431; Bordeaux: A5012075) and NIH and European Economic Community guidelines.

### *Animals*

Descriptive data are presented as median and interquartile range (IQR). Adult male mice including A2A-cre (Tg(Adora2a-cre)KG139Gsat, RRID:MMRRC\_031168-UCD; 163, 104-196 days old; n = 18), PV-cre (B6.Cg-Pvalb<sup>tm1.1(cre)Aibs</sup>/J, RRID:IMSR\_JAX:012358; 151, 126-167 days old; n = 14), PV-cre X Ai9 mice (B6.129P2-Pvalb<sup>tm1(cre)Arbr</sup>/J X B6.Cg-Gt(ROSA)26Sor<sup>tm9(CAG-tdTomato)Hze</sup>/J, RRID:IMSR\_JAX:017320 X RRID:IMSR\_JAX:007909; 69.5, 67-71 days old; n = 14), and GABRR3-cre (Tg(Gabrr3-cre)KC112Gsat, RRID:MMRRC\_030709-UCD; 169, 68-293 days old; n = 7) mice were used. Mice were bred in-house and housed under a 14h/10h (*in vivo* experiments) or 12h/12h (*ex vivo* experiments) light/dark cycle, with food and water *ad libitum*. Mice received regular veterinary inspection, and underwent only those procedures detailed here and tail-clipping for the purpose of genotyping. Experiments were performed during the light cycle.

### *Unilateral 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA)/vehicle and adeno-associated virus (AAV) vector injection*

6-OHDA/vehicle and AAVs were injected using a stereotaxic instrument (Neurostar, Tübingen, Germany; David Kopf Instruments, Tujunga, CA, USA). Anesthesia was induced with vaporized 3-4 % isoflurane (Smiths Medical ASD, Inc., Dublin, OH, USA; Tem-Sega, Inc., Pessac, France) before injection of ketamine/xylazine (75/10 or 87/13 mg/kg, respectively, IP). Within 2-5 minutes,

desipramine (25 mg/kg, IP) and pargyline (50 mg/kg, IP) were injected to enhance the selectivity and toxicity of intracerebral 6-OHDA injections, respectively. After placing the mouse in the stereotaxic instrument, anesthesia was maintained with 1-2 % isoflurane. 1-2  $\mu$ l of 6-OHDA (3-5 mg/ml) in HEPES buffered saline (HBS; in mM: 140 NaCl, 23 glucose, 15 HEPES, 3 KCl, 1.5 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.6 CaCl<sub>2</sub>; pH 7.2 with NaOH; 300–310 mOsm/L) plus 0.02 % ascorbate or vehicle (HBS plus 0.02 % ascorbate) was then injected into the MFB (from Bregma: AP, -0.7 mm; ML, 1.2 mm; DV, 4.7 mm) over a 10 minute period. The injectate was then allowed to diffuse for a further 10 minutes prior to retraction of the syringe. For D2-SPN, GPe, or STN neuron identification/silencing experiments in which A2A-cre, PV-cre, or GABRR3-cre transgenic mice were used, AAV expressing AAV9.CBA.Flex.Arch-GFP.WPRE.SV40 (Addgene viral prep #22222-AAV9, RRID: Addgene\_22222; Chow *et al.*, 2010) was injected into each target structure (striatum: 4 x 300 nl; AP, 0.4 mm and 0.9 mm; ML, 2.2 mm; DV, 3.7 mm and 2.7 mm; GPe: 2 x 300 nl; AP, -0.27 mm; ML, 2 mm; DV, 3.95 mm and 3.45 mm; STN: 500 nl; AP, -2.0 mm; ML, 1.6 mm; DV, 4.65 mm). Each AAV injection took place over 5 minutes, followed by a further 5 minute period prior to syringe retraction.

#### *In vivo electrophysiological recording*

Two-Three weeks (18.5, 15-21 days) following surgery, mice were briefly anesthetized with 3-4 % isoflurane in order to inject urethane (1.25 g/kg, IP). Mice were then allowed to rest in their homecage for 1 hour and then injected with ketamine/xylazine (16/0.8 mg/kg, respectively, IP) every 10-20 minutes until the toe-pinch withdrawal reflex was abolished. Mice were then placed into a stereotaxic instrument (David Kopf Instruments) for the duration of the recording session and ketamine/xylazine supplements were administered as needed to maintain anesthesia. Craniotomies were drilled over the ipsilateral motor cortex (AP, 1.4 mm; ML, 1.5 mm) and two recording sites among the striatum (AP, 0.5 mm; ML, 2.5 mm), GPe (AP, -0.3 mm; ML, 2.0 mm), and STN (AP, -1.7 mm; ML,

1.6 mm) depending on the experiment. A peridural screw “electrode” (MS-51960-1; McMaster-Carr, Chicago, IL, USA) was implanted over primary motor cortex from which the intracranial electroencephalogram (EEG) was recorded. Extracellular single unit recordings and local field potentials (LFPs) were acquired using silicon tetrode arrays (A1x4-tet-10mm-100-121-A16; NeuroNexus Technologies, Ann Arbor, MI, USA) connected to a 64-channel Digital Lynx (Neuralynx, Bozeman, MT, USA) data acquisition system with a unity gain headstage, at a sampling frequency of 40 kHz, a gain of 14 X, with reference wire implanted opposed to the ipsilateral temporal musculature. Online digital finite impulse response filters were applied. Single unit activity was band pass filtered between 200-9000 Hz and LFP and EEG signals were band pass filtered between 0.1-400 Hz. Optogenetic stimulation was delivered using a custom 577 nm laser system (Genesis MX STM 577-500 OPSSL CW; Coherent Inc., Santa Clara, CA, USA) that was fiber coupled to an optrode with an identical array of tetrodes (A1x4-tet-10mm-100-121-OA16; NeuroNexus Technologies). Silicon probes were dipped in a lipophilic fluorescent dye (DiI; 20 mg/ml in 50 % acetone/methanol; D282; ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) prior to initial penetration to identify sites of recording in histological sections.

Unit activity, LFP, and EEG were simultaneously recorded for several minutes during cortical SWA. This was followed by at least two periods of optogenetic stimulation of Arch-GFP (< 6 mW) for 5 seconds, with each stimulation period being separated by at least three minutes. Laser power was measured at the optrode tip prior to probe implantation and verified at the conclusion of each experiment. Cortical ACT was evoked by tail pinch using a custom pneumatic device. After cortical SWA had stabilized following ACT, another tail pinch was applied. This sequence was repeated until at least three trials had been recorded or units were lost.

#### *Histological processing of in vivo tissue*

Following recording, mice were given a lethal dose of anesthetic and transcardially perfused with saline for 2 minutes followed by 4 % w/v

paraformaldehyde in 0.1 M PB, pH 7.4 for approximately 20 minutes. The brain was then removed, held in the same fixative overnight, and then washed in 0.01 M phosphate-buffered saline, pH 7.4 (PBS; P3813; Millipore Sigma, Darmstadt, Germany) before being sectioned in the coronal plane at 70  $\mu$ m using a vibratome (VT1000S; Leica Microsystems Inc., Richmond, Illinois, USA). Sections were then washed 3 times in PBS before incubation for 48-72 hr at 4 °C in a mixture of PBS, 0.5 % Triton X-100 (T8787; Millipore Sigma), and 2 % normal donkey serum (017-000-121; Jackson ImmunoResearch, West Grove, PA, USA; PBS-T) containing primary antibodies (see below). Sections were then washed in PBS before incubation for 90 minutes at room temperature (RT) in PBS-T containing secondary antibodies (see below). Lastly, sections were washed in PBS and mounted on slides with Prolong Gold Antifade Reagent (P36930; ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). Mountant was allowed to cure for at least 24 hours prior to storage at 4 °C or imaging. GFP, Dil, and immunofluorescent labelling were imaged using a Zeiss Axioskop 2 microscope (Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany), an AxioCam CCD camera (426508-9901-000; Zeiss), and Neurolucida software (MFB Bioscience, Williston, VT, USA). Representative images were acquired using confocal laser scanning microscopy (A1R; Nikon, Melville, USA).

A 1:6 series of the striatum and SN was processed for the immunohistochemical detection of tyrosine hydroxylase (TH; 1:500 mouse anti-TH; MAB318, RRID:AB\_2201528, Millipore Sigma, Charalampopoulos *et al.*, 2005; Peng *et al.*, 2005; 1:250 Alexa Fluor 488 donkey anti-mouse IgG; 715-545-152, RRID: AB\_2313584, Jackson Immunoresearch) and expression was quantified, as described previously (Fan *et al.*, 2012). Immunoreactivity was averaged across three evenly spaced rostral, middle, and caudal sections. Cortical immunoreactivity was then subtracted from striatal immunoreactivity to normalize for background fluorescence. Dopamine depletion was assessed from the immunoreactivity in the vehicle or 6-OHDA-injected hemisphere, expressed as a percentage of immunoreactivity in the contralateral hemisphere (Table 1). For PV-cre mice, in which PV GPe neurons expressed Arch-GFP, adjacent sections of the GPe were

processed for the immunohistochemical detection of PV (1:200 rabbit anti-PV; 195 002, RRID:AB\_2156474, Basco *et al.*, 2011; or 1:200 guinea pig anti-PV; 195 004, RRID:AB\_2156476, Kotzadimitriou *et al.*, 2018; 1:250 Alexa Fluor 594 donkey anti-rabbit IgG; 711-585-152, RRID:AB\_2340621; or 1:250 Alexa Fluor 594 donkey anti-guinea pig IgG; 706-585-148, RRID:AB\_2340474; Jackson ImmunoResearch) or FoxP2 (1:500 rabbit anti-FoxP2; MFCD06411813, RRID:AB\_1078909, Millipore Sigma, Hernandez *et al.*, 2015; 1:250 Alexa Fluor 594 donkey anti-rabbit IgG; 711-585-152, RRID:AB\_2340621, Jackson ImmunoResearch). Sections of the STN from PV-cre and GABRR3-cre mice, the GPe from GABRR3-cre and A2A-cre mice, and the striatum from A2A-cre mice were processed for the immunohistochemical detection of the neuronal markers NeuN (1:200 mouse anti-NeuN; MAB377, RRID:AB\_2298772, Millipore Sigma, Aranha *et al.*, 2010; or 1:1,000 rabbit anti-NeuN; AB177487, RRID:AB\_2532109, Abcam, Xu *et al.*, 2018; 1:250 Alexa Fluor 594 donkey anti-mouse IgG; 715-585-150; or 1:250 Alexa Fluor 594 donkey anti-rabbit IgG; 711-585-152, Jackson ImmunoResearch) or HuC/D (1:66 mouse anti-HuC/D; A-21271, RRID:AB\_221448, ThermoFisher Scientific, Nogueira *et al.*, 2017; 1:250 Alexa Fluor 594 donkey anti-mouse; 715-585-150, Jackson ImmunoResearch) to aid reconstruction of electrode tracks and sites of recording.

Stereological counts of Arch-GFP-, PV-, and FoxP2-expressing GPe cells were determined using the optical dissector method (West *et al.*, 1991) on a 1:4 series of sections. Structures were traced with a 10 X objective (420943-9900-000; Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) and imaged using a 40 X oil- (000000-1022-818; Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) or 60 X water-immersion (UplanApo 60X/1.2 NA; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) objectives. Counting frames of 100 x 100 or 90 x 90  $\mu\text{m}$ , and grid sizes of 300 x 300 or 200 x 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively were used. Images were taken at 1  $\mu\text{m}$  intervals for 5  $\mu\text{m}$  beneath a 1  $\mu\text{m}$  guard zone (NeuroLucida system, MFB Bioscience, Williston, VT, USA).

### *In Vivo Electrophysiological Analysis*

Due to the impaired movement of 6-OHDA-dopamine-depleted mice, experimenters were not blinded to the experimental group of the mice that they were recording from. Putative single-unit activity was discriminated with Plexon Offline Sorter software (Version 3; Plexon, Inc., Dallas, TX; RRID:SCR\_000012) using a combination of template matching, principal component analysis, and manual clustering. Spike times were aligned to the peak of the extracellularly recorded action potential and a dead time of 500  $\mu$ s was utilized during discrimination of units (Maccione *et al.*, 2009; Adamos *et al.*, 2010; Lu *et al.*, 2016). Given that action potential widths varied between  $\sim$  1.0 and 1.5 ms and assuming an absolute refractory period of  $\sim$  1.0 ms, the minimum interspike interval (ISI) of a single neuron's spike train should be  $\sim$  2 ms. A threshold of  $< 1\%$  of ISIs  $< 2$  ms was therefore utilized for the designation of putative single units in this study (Mallet *et al.*, 2008a; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Sharott *et al.*, 2017). Of the 551 putative single unit spike trains reported here, the percentage of ISIs with durations  $< 2$  ms was 0.0457, 0-0.227 %, suggesting that there was minimal contamination by stray units.

All data were visually inspected in Neuroexplorer 4 (Nex Technologies, Colorado Springs, CO; RRID:SCR\_001818) and exported to MATLAB 2017b (MathWorks, Matlock, MA; RRID:SCR\_001622) for analysis. Epochs with consistent, robust cortical SWA or ACT were selected for analysis. During cortical SWA, 30 second epochs were used to assess baseline neuronal activity. During cortical SWA, the impact of optogenetic inhibition was assessed by comparing neuronal activity 5 seconds prior to Arch-GFP stimulation with neuronal activity during 5 seconds of Arch-GFP stimulation. Neurons that were responsive to Arch-GFP stimulation are reported. In areas that received direct optogenetic stimulation of Arch-GFP, neurons were considered to be responsive if their firing rate was rapidly, consistently, and persistently suppressed by at least 2 SD. Although polysynaptic mechanisms cannot be completely excluded, these effects are consistent with direct optogenetic inhibition as the primary cause of firing rate reduction.

In most cases the activity of downstream/postsynaptic neurons increased when the upstream/presynaptic nucleus was GABAergic (i.e., striatum or GPe) and decreased when the upstream/presynaptic nucleus was glutamatergic (i.e., STN). In a small number of neurons, the opposite response was observed or more subtle changes in firing pattern occurred without a change in firing rate. Therefore, downstream/postsynaptic neurons were deemed to be responsive to optogenetic inhibition of the upstream/presynaptic nucleus if their firing rate or regularity changed by greater than 2 SD during inhibition of the upstream/presynaptic nucleus. Although polysynaptic mechanisms cannot be completely excluded, the typical effects on downstream/postsynaptic activity are consistent with optogenetic inhibition of the presynaptic nucleus as the primary cause.

During cortical ACT, five seconds of neuronal activity prior to and during tail pinch were compared. "Putative PV" GPe neurons were "isolated" from unidentified populations of GPe neurons in A2A-cre and GABRR3-cre mice by restricting analysis of unidentified GPe neurons to those with an in-:antiphase ratio within the interquartile range of optogenetically identified PV GPe neurons in PV-cre mice. Mean firing rates were calculated from the number of spikes divided by epoch length. The coefficient of variation of the interspike interval (CV) was used as a metric of regularity.

To examine the relationship between cortical SWA and neuronal firing, phase histograms were generated in MATLAB: 1) cortical SWA was extracted from the raw EEG signal by applying a bandpass 0.5-1.5 Hz 2<sup>nd</sup> order Butterworth filter in the forward and reverse directions to avoid phase shifts; 2) the EEG was downsampled to 1 kHz using the MATLAB function "resample"; 3) the instantaneous phase of the EEG was calculated from the Hilbert transform (Le Van Quyen *et al.*, 2001); 4) the empirical cumulative distribution function (MATLAB) was applied to correct for the non-sinusoidal nature of slow cortical oscillations, (Siapas *et al.*, 2005; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Abdi *et al.*, 2015) 5) each spike was assigned to a phase of the EEG from 0-360° (0°/360° and 180° corresponding to the peak-active and -inactive components of the EEG, respectively). Each neuron's

spike probability was calculated from (spikes/bin)/(total # of spikes) X 100. Data were binned at 10° in figures, and at 180° for statistical comparisons. Population phase histograms are plotted as median and interquartile range.

The multitaper Fourier transform function (Bokil *et al.*, 2010; McConnell *et al.*, 2012; Brazhnik *et al.*, 2016) was applied using MATLAB to assess spectral power within the 1 kHz downsampled EEG, GPe and STN LFP (chronux.org; NW = 3, K = 5). 5 s epochs during cortical SWA or ACT were examined to determine total power in the 0.5-1.5 Hz, 10-39.9 Hz, and 40-250 Hz frequency bands respectively. Power within each band of interest was then normalized to the total power from 0-250 Hz to control for variability in signal amplitude between recordings.

#### *Ex vivo electrophysiological recording*

Acute brain slices were prepared from PV-cre X Ai9 mice as previously described (Chazalon *et al.*, 2018). Briefly, mice were anesthetized with ketamine/xylazine (100/20 mg/kg, respectively) and perfused transcardially with ice-cold modified artificial cerebrospinal fluid (ACSF), equilibrated with 95% O<sub>2</sub> and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, and containing (in mM): 230 sucrose, 26 NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 2.5 KCl, 1.25 NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 0.5 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 10 MgSO<sub>4</sub> and 10 glucose. Brains were rapidly removed and sectioned into 300 µm-thick parasagittal slices with a vibrating blade microtome (VT1200S; Leica Microsystems, Germany). Slices containing the GPe were then left to equilibrate for 1 h (at 35°C) in ACSF of the following composition (in mM): 126 NaCl, 26 NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 2.5 KCl, 1.25 NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 2 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 2 MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 10 glucose, 1 sodium pyruvate and 4.9 reduced L-glutathione (equilibrated with 95% O<sub>2</sub> and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>). Individual brain slices were placed in a recording chamber where they were perfused at 4-5 ml/min with synthetic interstitial fluid (SIF) at 35 °C containing (in mM): 126 NaCl, 3 KCl, 1.25 NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 1.6 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.5 MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 10 glucose and 26 NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (equilibrated with 95 % O<sub>2</sub> and 5 % CO<sub>2</sub>). Somatic patch-clamp recordings were obtained under visual guidance (E600FN Eclipse workstation, Nikon, Japan; Nikon Fluor 60 X/1.0 NA) using motorized manipulators (Patchman



NP2, Eppendorf, France). PV GPe neurons were identified by visualization of tdTomato under epifluorescence. Autonomous PV GPe neuron activity was recorded in the presence of the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor (GABA<sub>A</sub>zine, 20 μM), GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor (CGP 55845, 1 μM), AMPA/Kainate receptor (DNQX, 20 μM), and NMDA receptor (D-APV, 50 μM) antagonists in the loose-seal configuration of the patch clamp technique in current clamp mode using borosilicate glass pipettes (4-6 MΩ) containing (in mM): 140 NaCl, 23 glucose, 15 HEPES, 3 KCl, 1.5 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.6 CaCl<sub>2</sub>. pH and osmolarity were adjusted to 7.2 with 1 M NaOH and to 300-310 mOsm, respectively. Electrophysiological recordings were acquired using a computer running Clampex 9.2 software (Molecular Devices, Palo Alto, CA, USA) connected to a Multiclamp 700B amplifier (Molecular Devices) via a Digidata 1320A digitizer (Molecular Devices). Data were low-pass filtered at 4 kHz and sampled at 20 kHz.

#### *Histological processing for ex vivo experiments*

PV-cre X Ai9 mice were euthanized with 20 % urethane and transcardially perfused with PBS, followed by 4 % w/v paraformaldehyde in 0.1 M PB, pH 7.4. The brain was then removed and incubated overnight in the same fixative at 4°C, then immersed in PBS containing 20 % w/v sucrose for 24h at 4°C, and stored in this solution at -80°C before being sectioned in the coronal plane at 50 μm on a cryostat (CM3000; Leica Microsystems Inc.). Sections were then washed in PBS and those containing 'rostral', 'central', and 'caudal' GPe (corresponding approximately to AP -0.2 mm, -0.45 mm, and -0.7 mm from Bregma, respectively (Paxinos & Franklin, 2001) were selected for immunohistochemical detection of GPe markers. Sections were incubated overnight at RT in a mixture of 3 primary antibodies diluted in PBS-T (1:100 goat anti-FoxP2; sc-21069, RRID:AB\_2107124, Santa Cruz, Fu *et al.*, 2014; 1:1,000 guinea pig anti-parvalbumin; 195 004, RRID:AB\_2156476 , Synaptic Systems, Abbas *et al.*, 2018; 1:1,000 rat anti red fluorescent protein 5f8, RRID:AB\_2336064, Chromotek). Sections were then washed and incubated for 1 hour at RT in PBS-T containing a mixture of secondary antibodies (1:500 Alexa Fluor 488 donkey anti guinea-pig IgG; A11073,

RRID:AB\_2534117, Life Technologies; 1:500 Alexa Fluor 647 donkey anti-goat IgG; A21447, RRID:AB\_2535864, Life Technologies; 1:500 DyLight 594 donkey anti rat IgG; NBP1-75661, RRID:AB\_11055284, Novus). Finally, sections were washed in PBS, mounted in Vectashield (Vector Laboratories), and imaged on a confocal fluorescence microscope (TCS SP8, Leica Microsystems Inc.). Images were acquired using a 20 X 1.0 NA objective lens in 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$  steps between 2  $\mu\text{m}$  and 17  $\mu\text{m}$  from the upper surface of each section. Colocalization was assessed from maximal z-projection images using the cell counter plug-in of ImageJ.

Sections containing the striatum were processed for the immunohistochemical detection of TH. Sections were first incubated in primary antibody (1:10,000 monoclonal anti-TH; MAB318, RRID:AB\_2201528, Millipore Bioscience Research Reagents) in PBS-T overnight at RT. Subsequently, the sections were incubated in secondary antibody in PBS-T (1:1000 biotinylated horse anti-mouse IgG; BA-2000, RRID:AB\_2313581, Vector Laboratories) for 90 min at RT. Finally, sections were incubated in avidin-biotin peroxidase complex (1:500; PK-4002, RRID:AB\_2336811, Vector Laboratories) for 60 min at RT and immunoreactivity was revealed using AMEC (SK-4285, RRID:AB\_2336519, Vector Laboratories). Sections were then rinsed, mounted on gelatin-coated slides, and coverslipped in VectaMount (Vector Laboratories). At least three sections from each hemisphere containing the striatum were scanned in an Epson expression 10000XL high-resolution scanner. Mean optical density was measured in the top half of the striatum (Mercator; Explora Nova, La Rochelle, France) and values were corrected for background staining as above. TH immunoreactivity ipsilateral to vehicle or 6-OHDA injection was expressed as a percentage of immunoreactivity in the contralateral hemisphere, as described above (Table 1).

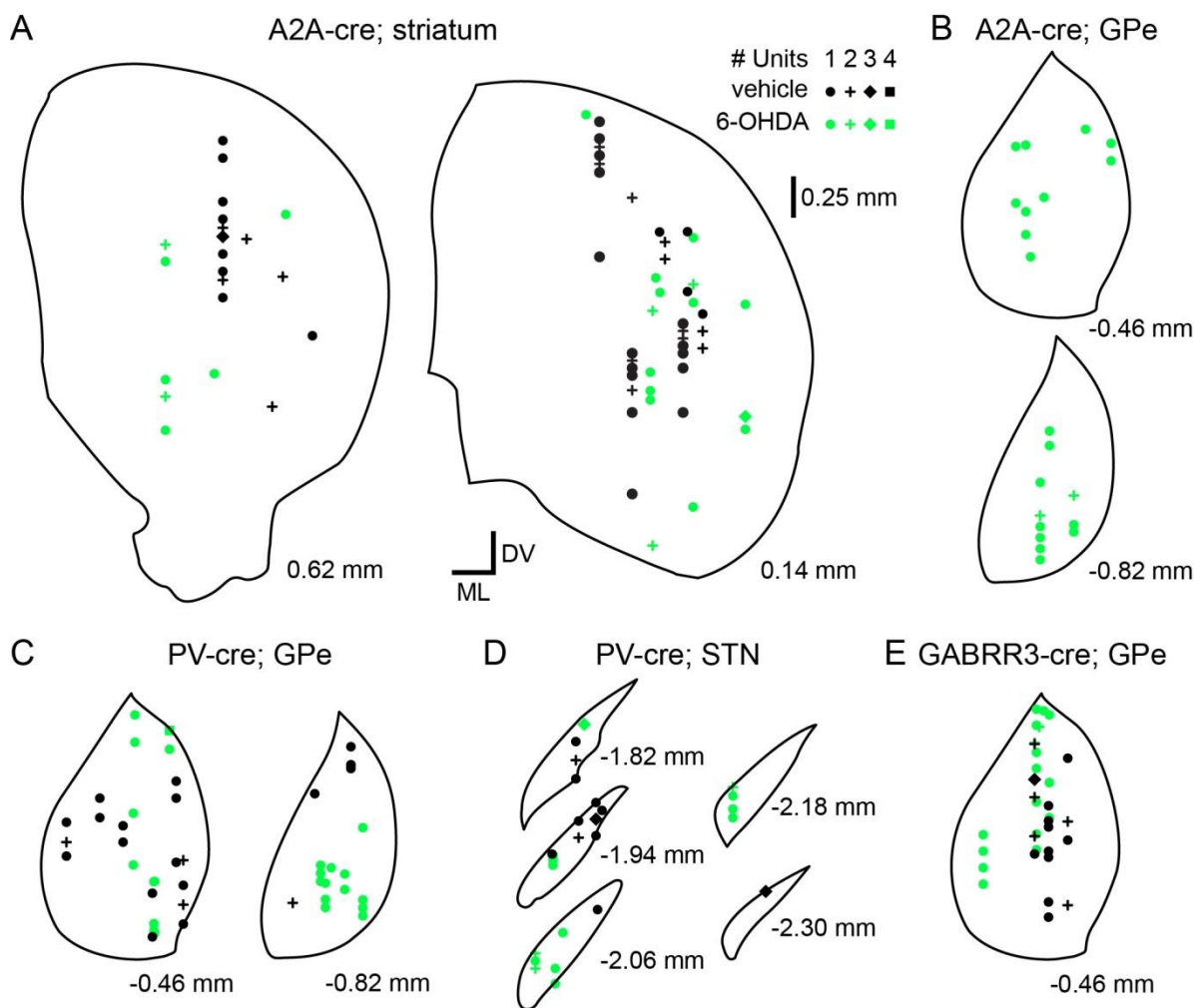
### *Statistical analysis*

Statistics were performed using Prism 6 (GraphPad Software, Inc., La Jolla, CA, USA; RRID:SCR\_002798) or R (<https://www.r-project.org/>; exactRankTests package; RRID:SCR\_001905). Population data are expressed as median and

interquartile range and illustrated using box plots (central line: median; box: 25 % - 75 %; whiskers: 10 % - 90 %); outliers were not excluded from analysis. Paired data are illustrated using line plots. It should be noted that some data were excluded from paired analyses that were included in unpaired analyses (e.g. when CV could not be calculated due to an absence of firing); these data are represented in box plots overlying paired line plots. Because no assumptions were made concerning the distribution of population data, non-parametric statistics were used throughout. Paired and unpaired data were compared using the non-parametric Mann-Whitney U (MWU) and Wilcoxon Signed Rank (WSR) tests, respectively, and Fisher's exact test was used for contingency analyses. When applicable, the Holm-Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons (Holm, 1997) was applied (adjusted p-values are indicated as  $p_{h\#}$ , where # is the adjustment factor). P values < 0.05 were considered significant. To ensure the proposed research was adequately powered, sample sizes were estimated using the formulae described by Noether (Noether, 1987) assuming 80% power (i.e. the probability of a Type 2 error of 20%) and a two-tailed level of 0.05. For unpaired data (groups X and Y), and probabilities of  $X > Y$  (or  $X < Y$ ) being 0.7, 0.8, and 0.9, the estimated sample sizes for each group are 33, 15, and 9, respectively. For paired data (where  $X_i$  and  $X_j$  are independent samples from X, reflecting effect size and sign) and the probabilities of  $X_i + X_j > 0$  being 0.7, 0.8, and 0.9, the estimated sample sizes are 66, 30, and 17, respectively. Probabilities between 0.7 and 0.9 are representative of our historical, pilot, and actual data. Thus, for all core findings our study was at 80% power to detect probabilities of  $X > Y$  (or  $X < Y$ ) and  $X_i + X_j > 0$  (for unpaired and paired tests, respectively) between approximately 0.7 and 0.9.

## Results

To determine the activity patterns of D2-SPNs, PV GPe neurons, and STN neurons, and their impact on GPe-STN network activity *in vivo*, neurons were identified and their activities manipulated through activation of the inhibitory opsin Arch-GFP (Chow *et al.*, 2010). Arch-GFP was expressed virally in a cre-dependent manner in D2-SPNs, PV GPe neurons, and STN neurons in A2A-cre, PV-cre, and GABRR3-cre mice, respectively. In addition, mice received ipsilateral injections of 6-OHDA or vehicle in the MFB to lesion midbrain dopamine neurons and to control for surgical injection, respectively. Two-three weeks after surgery, mice were anesthetized with a combination of urethane and ketamine/xylazine and ipsilateral neuronal activity was recorded and manipulated optogenetically using silicon tetrodes/optrodes. Concurrent cortical activity was assessed from the EEG. After recording, mice were perfuse-fixed and the locations of recording tetrodes/optrodes were determined histologically (Fig. 1). Dopaminergic innervation of the striatum was quantified through immunohistochemistry for TH (Table 1). During cortical SWA and ACT, the relative powers of oscillatory activity in the EEG and LFPs in the GPe and STN in the 0.5-1.5 Hz, 10-39.9 Hz, and 40-250 Hz bands were similar in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice (Tables 2 and 3, respectively).



**Figure 1. Schematic representation of electrode recording sites**

A-E, maps of electrode recording sites used in this study. Recording sites in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice are plotted as black and green, respectively. The rostrocaudal location of each map is denoted relative to Bregma. The dorsoventral (DV) and mediolateral (ML) axes, scale bar, and recording key denoted in A refer to each panel. The number of units per recording site is denoted by marker symbol. A, electrode sites in the striatum of A2A-cre mice. B, GPe electrode sites in A2A-Cre mice. C, GPe electrode sites in PV-Cre mice. D, STN recording sites in PV-Cre mice. E, GPe electrode sites in GABRR3-Cre mice.

**Table 1. TH immunoreactivity in the striatum of vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice**

Mouse Line/Cell Type	vehicle: TH immunoreactivity (%)	6-OHDA: TH immunoreactivity (%)	p - value
A2A-cre/D2-SPNs	101, 98-105; n = 6	4, 11-4; n = 9	p = 0.0004*
A2A-cre/GPe	-----	4, 11-5 ; n = 8	-----
PV-cre/PV GPe	103, 96-105; n = 7	1, 11-3; n = 6	p = 0.0012*
PV-cre/STN	103, 96-106; n = 6	0, 16-1; n = 5	p = 0.0043*
PV-cre X Ai9/PV GPe	99, 99-131; n = 3	15, 29-6; n = 7	p = 0.0167*
GABRR3-cre/GPe	102, 96-104; n = 3	3, 34-2; n = 4	p = 0.0571

TH immunoreactivity in the ipsilateral dorsal striatum expressed as a percentage of immunoreactivity in the non-injected contralateral hemisphere, stratified by mouse line and recorded cell type. \*, p < 0.05 (MWU).

**Table 2. Spectral properties of the EEG during cortical SWA and ACT in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice**

Frequency Band (Hz)	vehicle: Relative Power	6-OHDA: Relative Power	p - value	vehicle: Peak Frequency (Hz)	6-OHDA: Peak Frequency (Hz)	p - value	n (vehicle/6-OHDA)
0.5-1.5 (SWA)	0.247, 0.169-0.375	0.233, 0.124-0.335,	0.2769	1.22, 0.855-1.34	1.1, 0.855-1.40	0.7042	60/69
10-39.9 (SWA)	(0.792, 0.53-1.23) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(0.827, 0.617-1.21) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.6455	10.4, 10.1-11.4	10.9, 10.3-12.3	0.0121*	60/69
40-250 (SWA)	(0.332, 0.235-0.565) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(0.341, 0.193-0.523) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.4576	48.3, 44.1-54.1	45.0, 41.9-49.7	0.0090*	60/69
0.5-1.5 (ACT)	(6.97, 3.43-13.4) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(7.21, 4.39-12.3) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.9121	0.610, 0.610-1.22	0.610, 0.610-1.47	0.7522	39/35
10-39.9 (ACT)	(2.55, 0.798-4.15) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(2.51, 1.88-4.18) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.2175	11, 10.1-12.7	11.5, 10.5-14.7	0.2907	39/35
40-250 (ACT)	(1.39, 0.608-2.44) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(1.47, 0.674-2.11) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.9549	45.7, 41.8-51.5	42.7, 41.0-44.7	0.0103*	39/35

Relative power and peak frequency in the EEG of vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice during cortical SWA or ACT in the 0.5-1.5 Hz, 10-39.9 Hz, and 40-250 Hz frequency bands. Power in each band was normalized to the power in the 0-250 Hz range. \*, p < 0.05 (MWU).

**Table 3. Spectral analysis of LFPs in the GPe and STN during cortical SWA and ACT in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice**

Frequency Band (Hz)	vehicle: Relative Power	6-OHDA: Relative Power	p - value	vehicle: Peak Frequency (Hz)	6-OHDA: Peak Frequency (Hz)	p - value	n (vehicle/6-OHDA)
GPe 0.5-1.5 (SWA)	0.408, 0.248 - 0.446	0.272, 0.135 - 0.347	0.0014	1.22, 0.977 - 1.34	0.977, 0.732 - 1.31	0.0749	25/48
GPe 10-39.9 (SWA)	(0.912, 0.504 - 1.67) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(0.548, 0.281 - 0.124) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.0705	10.6, 10.0 - 11.8	10.4, 10.2 - 11.4	0.9464	25/48
GPe 40-250 (SWA)	(4.06, 2.19 - 6.90) x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	(3.33, 2.18 - 9.48) x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.7509	180, 59.8 - 180	180, 60.1 - 180	0.4841	25/48
GPe 0.5-1.5 (ACT)	(3.61, 1.97 - 8.47) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(4.09, 2.40 - 8.58) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.5502	0.610, 0.610 - 1.22	0.610, 0.610 - 0.732	0.9704	21/24
GPe 10-39.9 (ACT)	(2.66, 1.74 - 4.98) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(3.82, 1.29 - 4.64) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.8659	11.2, 10.3 - 12.8	10.7, 10.1 - 11.8	0.2312	21/24
GPe 40-250 (ACT)	(1.48, 0.611 - 2.82) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(1.61, 0.573 - 3.29) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.5963	180, 43.3 - 180	60.2, 45.5 - 180	0.5834	21/24
STN 0.5-1.5 (SWA)	0.194, 0.103 - 0.336	0.0878, 0.0506 - 0.161	0.0754	0.977, 0.763 - 1.31	1.34, 1.22 - 1.47	0.0303	8/11
STN 10-39.9 (SWA)	(1.76, 0.622 - 2.90) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(0.913, 0.78 - 1.42) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.4421	11.5, 10.7 - 12.4	10.9, 10.3 - 12	0.5282	8/11
STN 40-250 (SWA)	(2.19, 0.601 - 3.48) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(1.2, 0.71 - 1.47) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.3100	120, 60.0 - 180	180, 59.8 - 180	0.9525	8/11
STN 0.5-1.5 (ACT)	(5.43, 1.66 - 9.75) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(5.32, 3.92 - 6.61) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.9015	0.610, 0.610 - 0.610	0.610, 0.610 - 0.732	0.7308	7/7
STN 10-39.9 (ACT)	(1.98, 0.853 - 3.39) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(1.3, 0.754 - 2.65) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.4557	11.2, 10.7 - 13.4	23.2, 14.8 - 30.5	0.0390	7/7
STN 40-250 (ACT)	(2.40, 0.435 - 4.10) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	(1.24, 1.22 - 2.14) x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.8048	180, 59.8 - 180	180, 45.3 - 180	0.6503	7/7

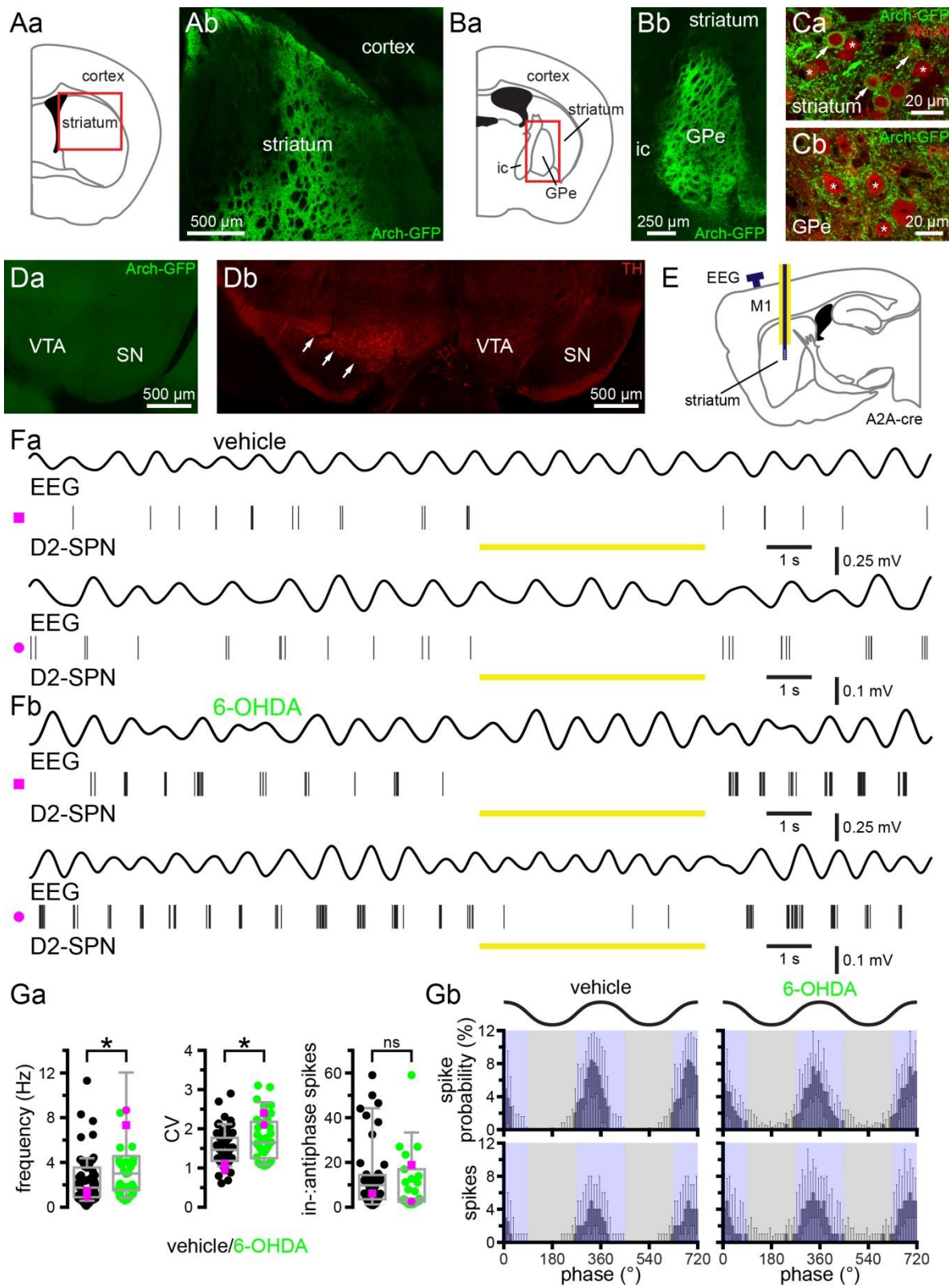
Relative power and peak frequency in the LFPs of vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice during cortical SWA or ACT in the 0.5-1.5 Hz, 10-39.9 Hz, and 40-250 Hz frequency bands. Power in each band was normalized to the power in the 0-250 Hz range. \*, p < 0.05 (MWU).

## **During cortical SWA the frequency of D2-SPN activity is greater in 6-OHDA-injected mice**

Dopamine negatively modulates both cortico-striatal transmission (Bamford *et al.*, 2004; Higley & Sabatini, 2010) and the intrinsic excitability of D2-SPNs (Gerfen & Surmeier, 2011; Planert *et al.*, 2013). Therefore, we predicted that following the loss of dopamine, cortical SWA-associated D2-SPN activity would be elevated despite the similarity of cortical SWA in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice (Tables 2, 3). The specificity of Arch-GFP expression in D2-SPNs in A2A-cre mice was confirmed by its presence in the subset of SPNs that project to the GPe (Fig. 2A-C) but not to the SNr (Fig. 2D). In regions expressing Arch-GFP, approximately one half of striatal neurons were directly inhibited by activation of Arch-GFP and therefore identified as D2-SPNs (Fig. 2E and F; vehicle: 55 %, n = 62 of 112; 6-OHDA: 54 %, n = 34 of 63;  $p = 1.0000$ ; Fisher's Exact). Of the neurons that were excluded due to the absence of direct inhibition, 2 % (n = 1 of 50) in vehicle- and 8 % (n = 3 of 28) in 6-OHDA-treated mice were disinhibited during optogenetic stimulation. In both vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice, D2-SPN activity was highly phasic and entrained to the active (positive) component of cortical SWA in the EEG in dopamine-intact and -depleted mice, consistent with direct driving of D2-SPN activity by cortical inputs (Fig. 2F). The frequency of D2-SPN activity measured during 30 second epochs of cortical SWA was elevated in 6-OHDA-injected mice relative to vehicle-injected controls (Fig. 2F and Ga; vehicle: rate = 1.75, 0.91-3.55 Hz; n = 62; 6-OHDA: rate = 3.02, 1.53-4.58 Hz; n = 34;  $p = 0.02068$ ; MWU). The median increase was modest in absolute terms (~ 1.27 Hz) but large in relative terms (~ 72.6%). There was also a significant but slight increase in the, presumably due to the more intense phasic activity (Fig. 2Ga vehicle: CV = 1.47, 1.19-1.77; n = 62; 6-OHDA: CV = 1.65, 1.25-2.18; n = 34;  $p = 0.04235$ ; MWU), equivalent to a 12% increase in median. The relationship between cortical SWA and D2-SPN firing was further examined through the generation of phase histograms. Firing in phase with cortical SWA was designated as activity



within a 180° window centered on 0/360°. Antiphase firing was designated as activity within a 180° window centered on 180°. The ratio of in-:antiphase spike probability in D2-SPNs was not altered by dopamine depletion (Fig. 2Ga and Gb; vehicle = 9.81, 3.60-14.4; n = 48; 6-OHDA = 3.91, 2.51-17.0; n = 27; p = 0.4671; MWU). Together these data demonstrate that following the loss of dopamine, the firing rate of D2-SPNs increased but the phase relationship of D2-SPN activity to cortical SWA was not altered. These data in mice are consistent with the activity of putative and identified striatopallidal neuron activity in dopamine intact and -depleted rats during cortical SWA (Mallet *et al.*, 2006; Walters *et al.*, 2007; Zold *et al.*, 2012; Escande *et al.*, 2016; Sharott *et al.*, 2017).



**Figure 2. During cortical SWA the frequency of D2-SPN activity is greater in 6-OHDA-injected mice**

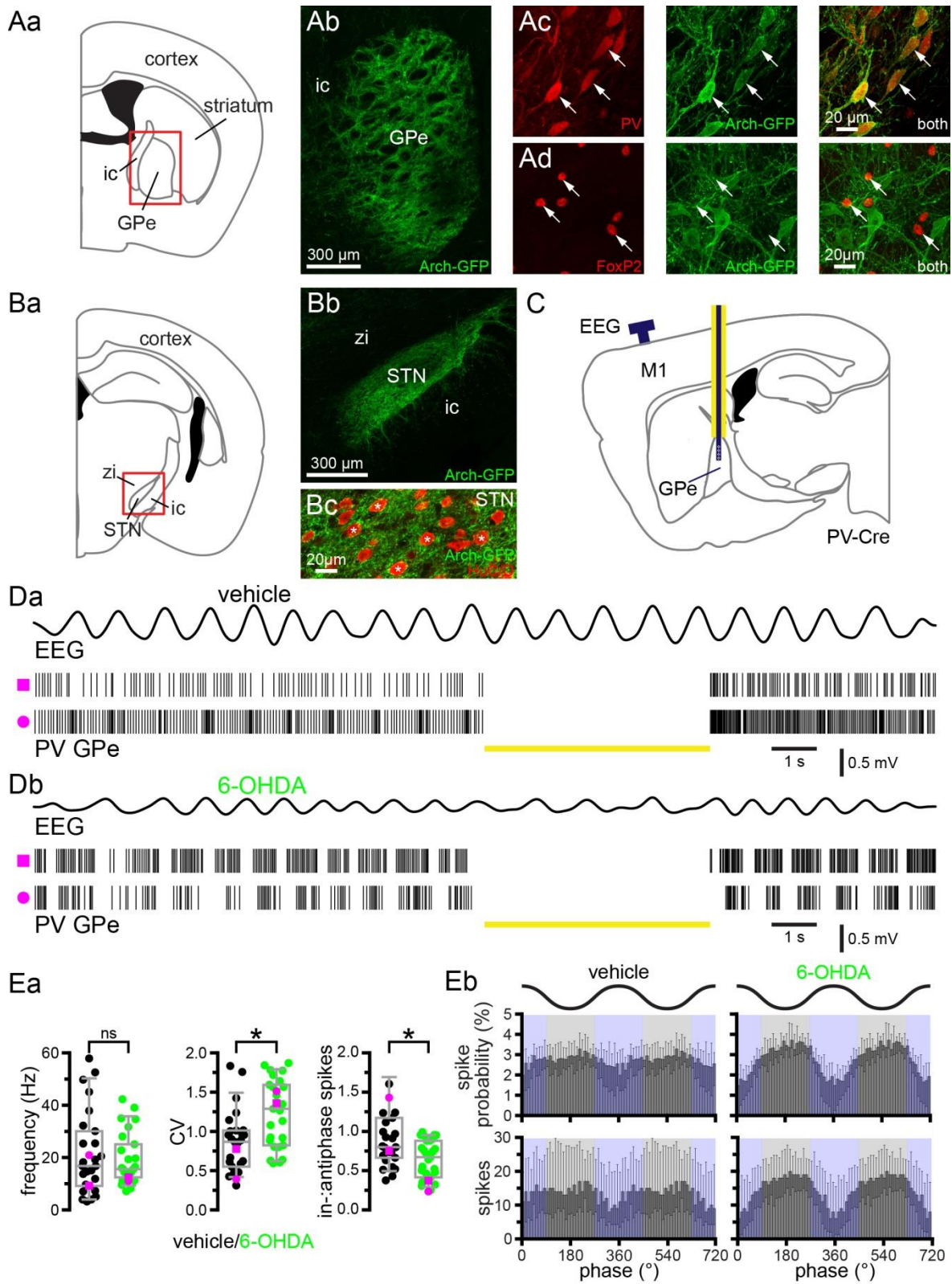
*A-D*, immunohistochemistry was used to verify cre-dependent viral expression of Arch-GFP in D2-SPNs in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected A2A-cre mice. *Aa* and *Ba*, schematic representations of areas imaged in *Ab* and *Bb* (red box denotes the imaged subregion; ic, internal capsule). *Ab*, *Bb*, and *C*, expression of Arch-GFP (green) in D2-SPNs in the striatum (*Ab* and *Ca*) and their axon terminals in the GPe (*Bb* and *Cb*). *Ca* and *Cb*, expression of NeuN (red) in the somata of striatal (*Ca*) and GPe (*Cb*) neurons. NeuN-immunoreactive neurons that express or do not express Arch-GFP are denoted by arrows and asterisks, respectively. *Da* and *Db*, absence of Arch-GFP expressing axon terminals (*Da*) and TH-immunoreactive neurons (*Db*) ipsilateral to injections of AAV in the striatum and 6-OHDA in the MFB. TH-immunoreactive substantia nigra (SN) and ventral tegmental area (VTA) neurons (red; arrows) are visible contralateral to the injection of 6-OHDA (*Db*). *E-G*, optogenetically identified D2-SPN firing rate was elevated in 6-OHDA-injected mice relative to vehicle-injected mice. *E*, schematic representation of EEG electrode and optrode placement (dark blue line indicates electrode; yellow line denotes affixed optical fiber; M1, primary motor cortex). *Fa* and *Fb*, representative EEG (upper trace; filtered at 0.5-1.5 Hz) and D2-SPN unit activity (below) from vehicle- (*Fa*) and 6-OHDA-injected (*Fb*) mice. D2-SPNs were identified by their inhibited activity during optogenetic stimulation of Arch-GFP (yellow bar). *G*, the frequency and to a lesser extent the CV of D2-SPN activity were significantly greater in 6-OHDA- versus vehicle-injected mice. However, D2-SPN activity was similarly entrained to the active component of cortical SWA. *Ga*, population box plots, D2-SPN firing rate (left), CV (middle), and in-:antiphase spikes (right); representative examples plotted with magenta symbols; five individual outlier data points were not plotted for legibility (outliers; 6-OHDA frequency: 15.5, 15.4, 30.3 Hz; vehicle in-:antiphase spikes: 193; 6-OHDA in-:antiphase spikes: 91.0). *Gb*, population linear phase histograms illustrate the phase relationship between D2-SPN neuron firing and cortical SWA in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice. Active

(blue) and inactive (gray) components of SWA are denoted. \*,  $p < 0.05$ . ns, not significant.

## **In dopamine-depleted mice PV GPe neuron activity is relatively antiphasic to cortical SWA**

Given the elevation of D2-SPN activity in dopamine-depleted mice and loss of presynaptic D2R-mediated inhibition of striatopallidal GABA release (Migueléiz *et al.*, 2012; Lemos *et al.*, 2016), we predicted that D2-SPNs would more effectively pattern postsynaptic prototypic GPe neuron activity in the absence of dopamine. Because D2-SPNs exhibit increased firing in phase with cortical SWA in dopamine-depleted mice, we predicted that the firing of postsynaptic prototypic GPe neurons would be relatively antiphasic to cortical SWA. To identify prototypic GPe neurons, the majority of which express PV (Mastro *et al.*, 2014; Abdi *et al.*, 2015; Dodson *et al.*, 2015; Hernandez *et al.*, 2015), Arch-GFP was virally expressed in PV-cre mice (Fig. 3A-C). Immunohistochemistry confirmed that the majority of Arch-GFP-expressing neurons co-expressed PV (Fig. 3A; 83, 73-93 %; n = 2 mice). Consistent with their prototypic identity, Arch-GFP was also strongly expressed by axon terminals in the STN (Fig. 3B). Incomplete immunohistochemical detection of PV was presumably the reason for the absence of PV immunoreactivity in 17 % of Arch-GFP expressing GPe neurons. In contrast, arkypallidal neurons, identified by their immunoreactivity for FoxP2 (Abdi *et al.*, 2015; Dodson *et al.*, 2015; Hernandez *et al.*, 2015), did not co-express Arch-GFP (Fig. 3A*d*; 0, 0-0 %; n = 2 mice). Together these data confirm the selective expression of Arch-GFP in PV GPe neurons and the absence of Arch-GFP expression in arkypallidal FoxP2 GPe neurons. Consistent with the relative abundance of PV GPe neurons, the majority of GPe neurons that were recorded were inhibited by optogenetic activation of Arch-GFP (Fig. 3C and D; vehicle: 82 %, n = 27 of 33; 6-OHDA: 84 %, n = 27 of 32; p = 1.0000; Fisher's Exact). However, given that recordings were initiated from tetrode locations where at least one GPe neuron was inhibited during optogenetic activation of Arch-GFP, recordings were likely to be biased toward prototypic neurons. Of those GPe neurons that were not directly inhibited by stimulation, 83 % (n = 5 of 6) in vehicle and 40 % (n = 2 of 5) in 6-OHDA-treated mice were disinhibited, presumably due to inhibition of presynaptic PV GPe neurons.

As for D2-SPNs, PV GPe neuron firing was first recorded during 30 second epochs of robust cortical SWA. In control mice, PV GPe neurons discharged in a tonic, irregular firing pattern during cortical SWA (Fig. 3Da and Ea; vehicle: frequency = 16.8, 9.23-30.1 Hz; n = 27; CV = 0.868, 0.554-1.01; n = 27). In dopamine-depleted mice, the rate of discharge of PV GPe neurons was similar but firing was more irregular relative to control (Fig. 3Db and Ea; 6-OHDA: frequency = 15.6, 12.5-25.2 Hz; n = 27; p = 0.9280; MWU; CV = 1.29, 0.824-1.59; n = 27; p =  $2.163 \times 10^{-3}$ ; MWU). Comparison of the in-:antiphase spike probability ratio in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice, revealed a shift in PV GPe neuron phase preference to firing that was more antiphase to cortical SWA (Fig. 3E; SWA: vehicle = 0.801, 0.664-1.18; n = 27; 6-OHDA = 0.675, 0.418-0.883; n = 27; p =  $9.16 \times 10^{-3}$ ; MWU). These data are consistent with studies in dopamine-depleted rats, which demonstrated that juxtacellularly labeled prototypic GPe neurons, defined on the basis of their descending axon collaterals and in some cases their expression of PV, exhibited firing that was relatively antiphase to cortical SWA (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Mallet *et al.*, 2012; Abdi *et al.*, 2015). Past studies focused on prototypic GPe neuron populations that adhered to specific firing characteristics such as phase locking to cortical SWA for analysis (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Mallet *et al.*, 2012; Abdi *et al.*, 2015). Here, we included all optogenetically identified PV GPe neurons and report more variability in phase preference. Our use of mice versus rats in earlier studies may also contribute to this variability.



### **Figure 3. In 6-OHDA-injected mice PV GPe neuron activity is relatively antiphase to cortical SWA**

A and B, immunohistochemistry was used to verify the cre-dependent viral expression of Arch-GFP in PV GPe neurons in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected PV-cre mice. *Aa* and *Ba*, schematic representations of areas imaged in *Ab* and *Bb* (red box denotes the imaged subregion). *Ab-d*, *Bb*, and *Bc*, expression of Arch-GFP (green) in GPe neurons (*Ab-d*) and their axon terminals in the STN (*Bb*, *Bc*; zi, zona incerta). *Ac*, expression of Arch-GFP in PV-immunoreactive prototypic GPe neurons (red; arrows). *Ad*, absence of Arch-GFP expression in FoxP2-immunoreactive arkypallidal GPe neurons (red; arrows). *Bb*, Arch-GFP expression in GPe axon terminals in the STN arising from the injection in *Ab*. *Bc*, Arch-GFP expressing axon terminals in the vicinity of NeuN-immunoreactive STN neurons (red; asterisks). *C*, schematic representation of optrode and EEG electrode placement (dark blue line indicates electrode; yellow line denotes affixed optical fiber). *D*, PV GPe neurons were identified through optogenetic stimulation of Arch-GFP which inhibited their activity (yellow bar). *Da* and *E*, in vehicle-injected dopamine-intact mice PV GPe neuron activity was relatively tonic and not consistently phase-related to cortical SWA. *Db* and *E*, in 6-OHDA-injected, dopamine-depleted mice PV GPe neuron activity was more entrained to the inactive component of cortical SWA. *Ea*, population data, PV GPe neuron firing rate (left), CV (middle), and in-:antiphase spikes (right); example data plotted with magenta symbols; two outlier data points were not plotted for legibility (vehicle in-:antiphase spike probability outliers: 2.05, 6.63). *Eb*, Population linear phase histograms of PV GPe neuron firing relative to cortical SWA in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice. \*,  $p < 0.05$ . ns, not significant.

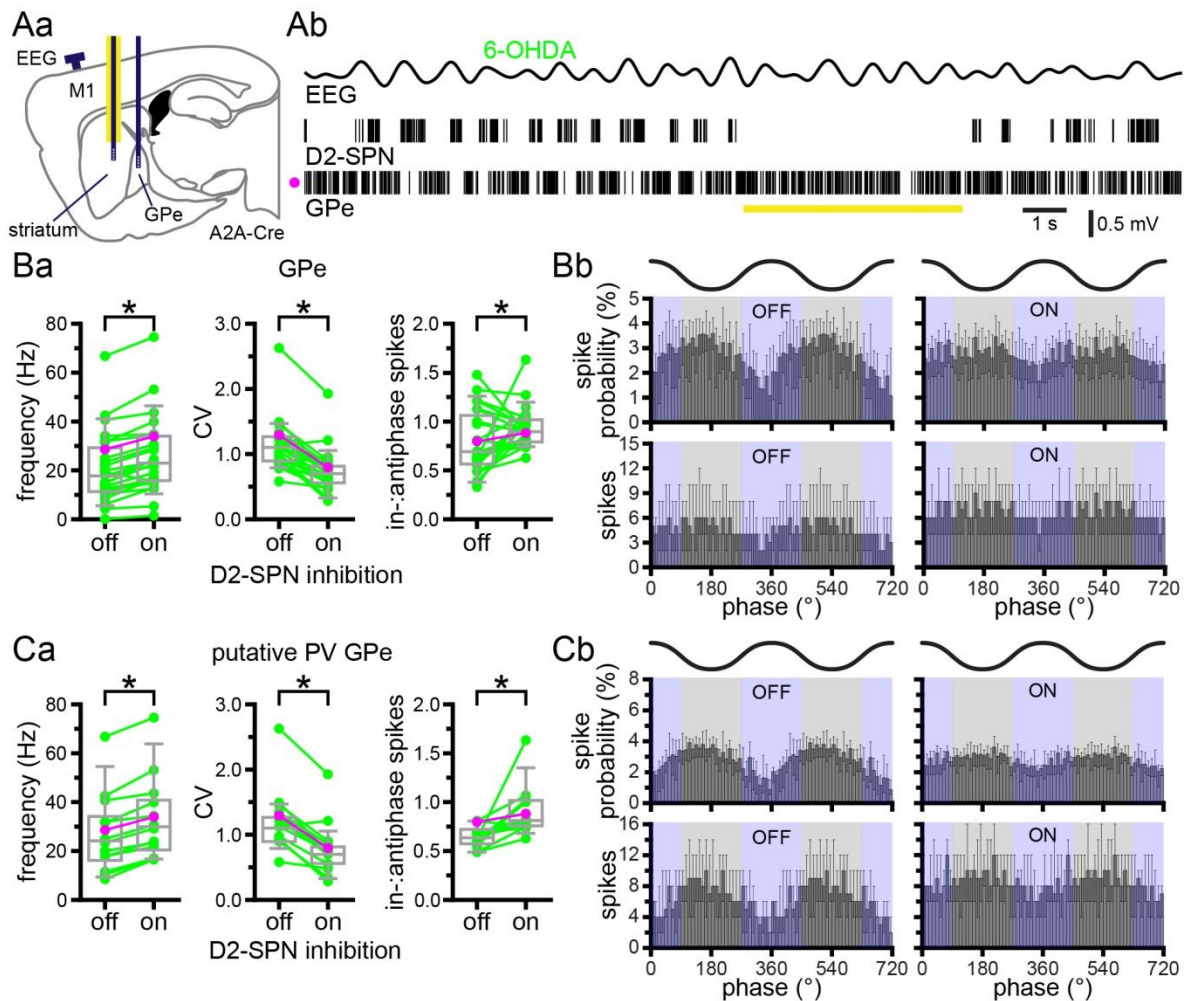


### **During cortical SWA, D2-SPNs contribute to the antiphase firing of GPe neurons in 6-OHDA-injected mice**

To determine whether the relatively antiphase firing of GPe neurons is linked to the increased in-phase activity of D2-SPNs in dopamine-depleted mice, D2-SPNs were optogenetically inhibited for 5 second epochs and the effect on GPe neuron activity was assessed. Use of A2A-cre mice to selectively express Arch-GFP in D2-SPNs precluded optogenetic identification of PV GPe neurons. Although recordings were only initiated where putative disinhibition of GPe neurons was observed during optical stimulation, responsive GPe neurons were relatively rare (46 %, n = 26 of 57), presumably because 1) the zone of optogenetic inhibition versus the size of the striatum was small and 2) the striatopallidal projection is highly topographic in nature (Chang *et al.*, 1981; Wilson & Phelan, 1982; Hedreen & DeLong, 1991; Hazrati & Parent, 1992; Smith *et al.*, 1998), lowering the probability of recording from connected parts of the striatum and GPe. In the majority of responsive GPe neurons D2-SPN inhibition elevated the frequency (Fig. 4A and Ba; 6-OHDA: 85 %, n = 22 of 26; laser off = 17.9, 11.3-29.4 Hz; laser on = 23.0, 15.9-34.0 Hz; n = 26; p =  $1.013 \times 10^{-6}$ ; WSR) and regularity (Fig. 4A and Ba; 6-OHDA: 92 %, n = 23 of 25; laser off CV = 1.10, 0.898-1.27; laser on CV = 0.701, 0.561-0.817; n = 25; p =  $2.98 \times 10^{-7}$ ; WSR) of their firing. Furthermore, inhibition of D2-SPNs reduced antiphase GPe activity, as indicated by an increase in in-:antiphase spike probability (Fig. 4Ba and Bb; 6-OHDA: 64 %, n = 16 of 25; laser off = 0.694, 0.567-1.07; laser on = 0.897, 0.791-1.02; n = 25; p = 0.04826; WSR).

To more selectively examine the impact of D2-SPN input on PV GPe neurons, putative PV GPe neuron activity was isolated by analyzing neurons with in-:antiphase spike probability ratios falling within the IQR of identified PV GPe (putative PV GPe) neurons in PV-cre mice. In response to optogenetic inhibition of D2-SPNs, putative PV GPe neurons in A2A-cre mice were uniformly disinhibited, (Fig. 4Ca; 6-OHDA: 100 %, n = 14 of 14; laser off = 24.3, 16.3-34.2 Hz; laser on = 30, 20.5-40.9 Hz; n = 14; p =  $1.221 \times 10^{-4}$ ; WSR). In addition, their firing decreased in irregularity (Fig. 4Ca; 6-OHDA: 93 %, n = 13 of 14; laser off CV = 1.24, 0.967-

1.37; laser on CV = 0.752, 0.536-0.870; n = 14; p =  $2.441 \times 10^{-4}$ ; WSR) and became less antiphase (Fig. 4C; 6-OHDA: 93 %, n = 13 of 14; in-:antiphase spike probability: laser off = 0.638, 0.574-0.721; laser on = 0.813, 0.76-102; n = 14; p =  $2.441 \times 10^{-4}$ ; WSR). Thus, optogenetic inhibition of D2-SPNs reduced antiphase discharge and normalized the pattern of unidentified GPe neuron activity in dopamine-depleted mice. These effects were more uniform in the putative PV GPe subset of GPe neurons. Together, these data demonstrate that during cortical SWA, D2-SPN activity contributes to the abnormally antiphase firing of GPe neurons in dopamine-depleted mice.



**Figure 4. Optogenetic inhibition of D2-SPNs reduces antiphase GPe activity in 6-OHDA-injected mice**

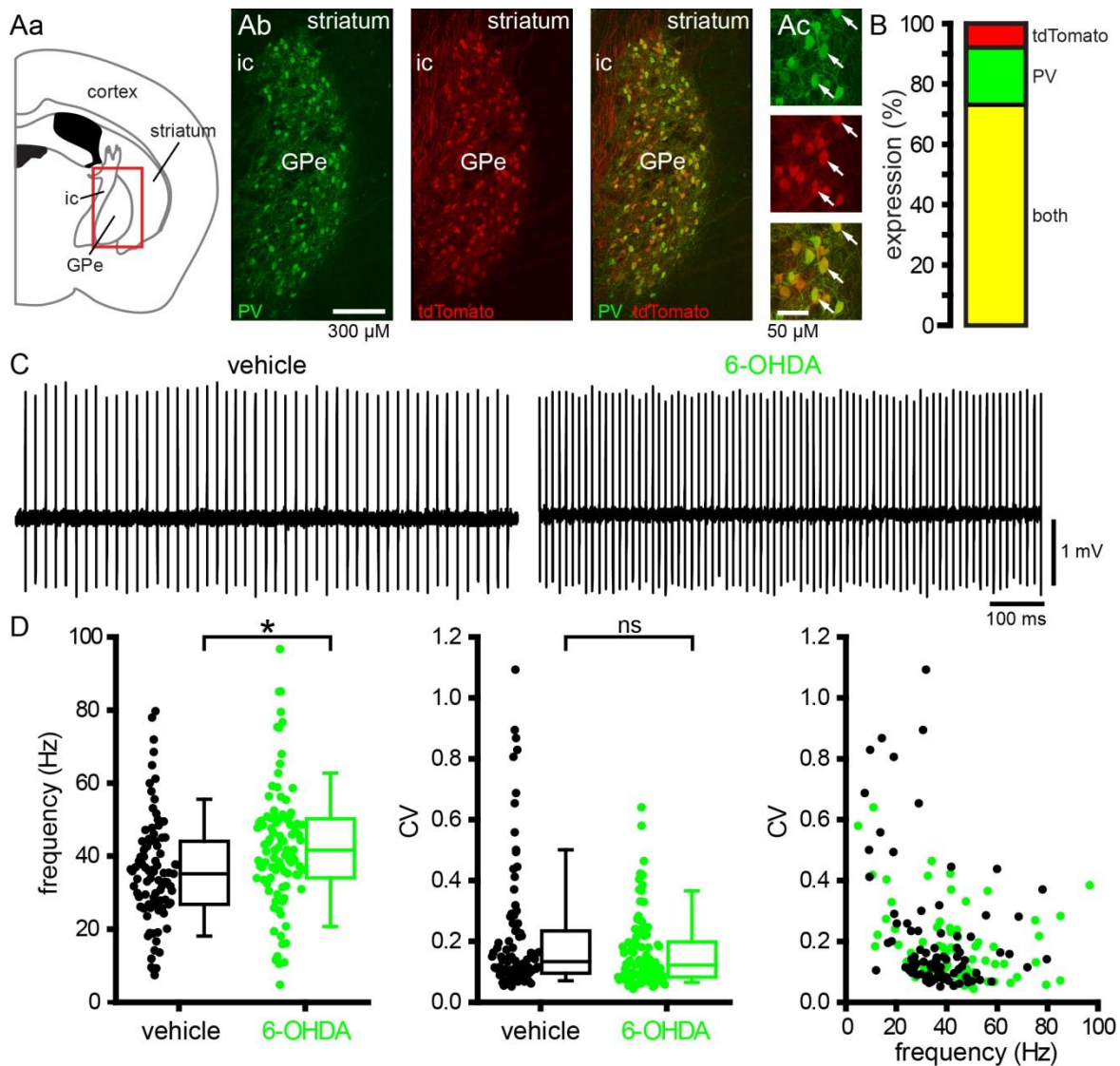
A-C, optogenetic inhibition of D2-SPNs in 6-OHDA-injected A2A-cre mice increased the frequency and decreased the variability (CV) of firing, and increased the in-:antiphase spike probability of unidentified (*B*) and putative PV GPe neurons (*C*). *A*, schematic representation of optrode and electrode placement (*Aa*, dark blue line indicates electrode; yellow line denotes affixed optical fiber) and representative example (*Ab*). *Ba* and *Ca*, population firing rate (left), CV (middle), and in-:antiphase spike probability (right) for unidentified (*Ba*) and putative PV (*Ca*) GPe neurons; example data plotted in magenta. *Bb* and *Cb*, population linear

phase histograms for unidentified (*Bb*) and putative PV (*Cb*) GPe neurons (*C*). \*,  $p < 0.05$ .

## **Following loss of dopamine the autonomous firing of PV GPe neurons is significantly elevated**

Loss of autonomous activity in GPe neurons has been suggested to contribute to their abnormally phasic activity *in vivo* following dopamine depletion (Chan *et al.*, 2011). However, this work was carried out before the more recent discovery of multiple GPe neuron subtypes. Therefore, the autonomous firing of PV GPe neurons was compared in *ex vivo* brain slices derived from vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice. In order to identify PV GPe neurons for patch clamp recording, tdTomato was conditionally expressed in PV neurons by crossing PV-cre mice with Ai9 reporter mice in which a loxP-flanked STOP cassette prevents transcription of downstream tdTomato. Selective expression of tdTomato in PV GPe neurons was first confirmed using immunohistochemistry for PV (Fig. 5A and B). Of neurons expressing tdTomato, PV, or both markers: 1) 73, 66-78 % co-expressed tdTomato and PV (n = 3 mice) 2) 9, 4-14 % expressed tdtomato but were not immunoreactive for PV (n = 3 mice), most likely due to less than 100% efficiency of immunodetection 3) 18, 18-20 % (n = 3 mice) of neurons did not express tdTomato but were PV-immunoreactive, presumably due to < 100 % efficiency of cre-mediated excision of the loxP-flanked STOP cassette. Less than 1 % of tdTomato expressing GPe neurons co-expressed the arkypallidal neuron marker FoxP2, consistent with previous reports (Abdi *et al.*, 2015; Hernandez *et al.*, 2015; data not shown). Together, these data suggest that tdTomato expression in this mouse line is a reliable marker of prototypic, PV GPe neurons. Cell-attached, current clamp recordings of GPe tdTomato-expressing neurons in *ex vivo* brain slices were conducted in the presence of AMPA, NMDA, GABA<sub>A</sub>, and GABA<sub>B</sub> receptor antagonists in order to measure their autonomous activity. As described previously, PV GPe neurons discharged regularly and at high frequency in brain slices derived from dopamine-intact mice (Fig. 5C and D; vehicle: frequency = 35.1, 26.8-44.0 Hz; CV = 0.13, 0.10-0.23; n = 89) (Mastro *et al.*, 2014; Abdi *et al.*, 2015; Dodson *et al.*, 2015; Hernandez *et al.*, 2015). The autonomous firing of PV GPe neurons in slices from 6-OHDA-injected mice was not only retained but

significantly elevated compared to firing of PV GPe neurons in vehicle-injected mice (Fig. 5C and D; 6-OHDA: frequency = 41.7, 34.0-50.2 Hz; CV = 0.12, 0.08-0.20; n = 98; frequency,  $p = 5.35 \times 10^{-4}$ ; CV,  $p = 0.1336$ ; WSR). Together these data suggest that the abnormally phasic pattern of PV GPe neuron firing in dopamine-depleted mice *in vivo* is not caused by loss of autonomous firing. In fact, autonomous firing was significantly up-regulated following the loss of dopamine, presumably through engagement of homeostatic compensatory mechanisms that were triggered by elevated striatopallidal transmission.



**Figure 5. In 6-OHDA-injected mice the frequency of autonomous PV GPe neuron activity *ex vivo* is elevated**

A and B, in PV-cre X Ai9 mice the majority of GPe neurons that expressed tdTomato (red) or were immunohistochemically labeled for PV (green), co-expressed both proteins (yellow), as evinced by a representative coronal section through the GPe (Aa, schematic representation of the area imaged in Ab; Ac, upper panel, PV; middle panel, tdTomato; lower panel, both) and quantitative population data (B). C and D, the autonomous activity of tdTomato-expressing GPe neurons recorded in the loose-seal, cell-attached configuration was not disrupted in

6-OHDA-injected mice relative to activity in control mice. Indeed, the frequency of autonomous firing was significantly greater in 6-OHDA-injected dopamine-depleted mice compared to that in control mice. *C*, representative examples. *D*, population data. \*,  $p < 0.05$ . ns, not significant.



## The STN opposes rather than facilitates antiphasic GPe neuron activity

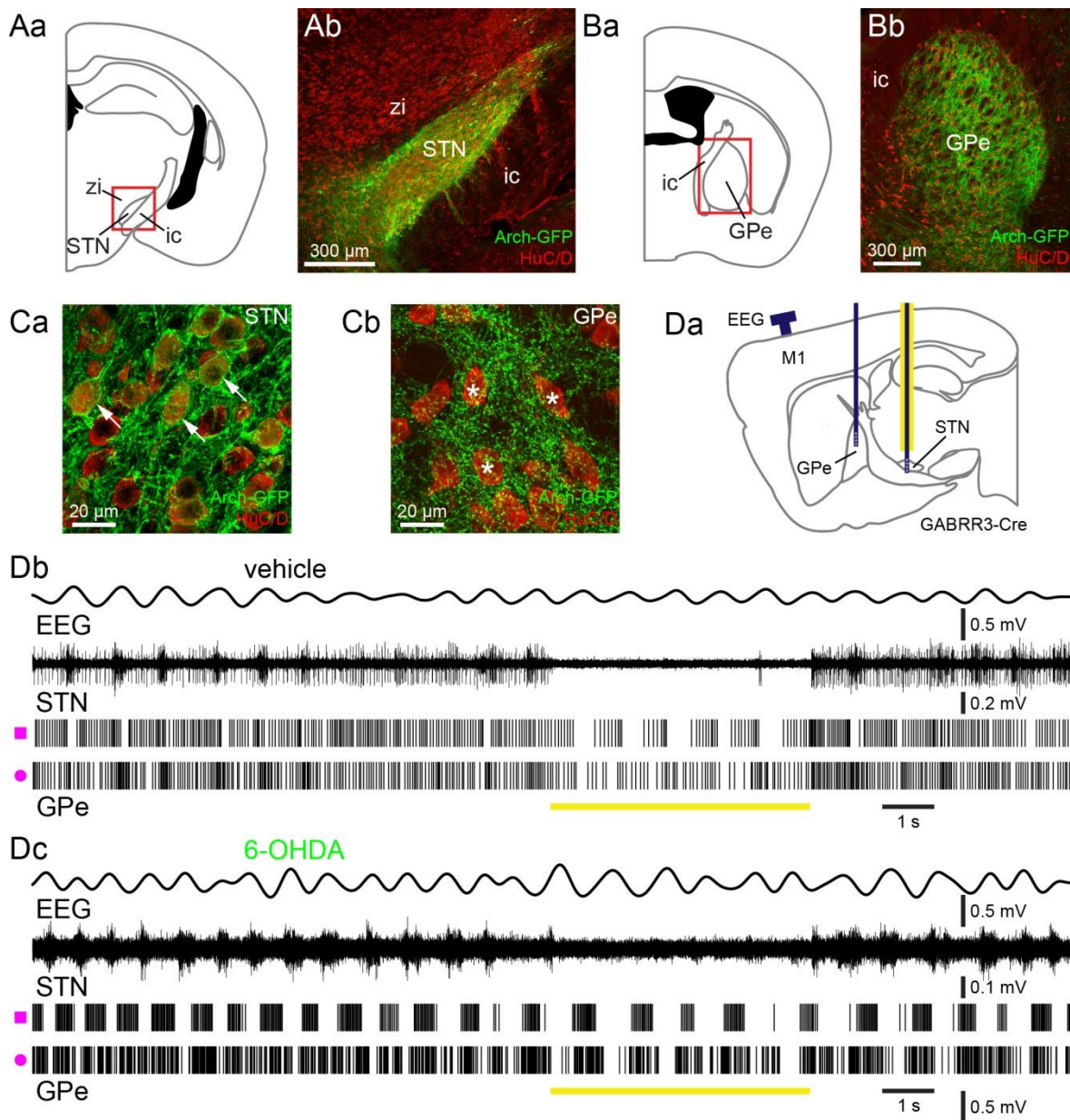
The GPe-STN network has been proposed to be a central pattern generator of abnormal oscillatory activity in PD (Plenz & Kital, 1999; Holgado *et al.*, 2010; Moran *et al.*, 2011). In dopamine-depleted mice, if the STN contributes to the abnormal antiphase activity of the GPe during cortical SWA, optogenetic inhibition of the STN should regularize GPe activity. Thus, we compared the responses of GPe neurons to optogenetic inhibition of the STN for 5 seconds in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected GABRR3-cre mice (Table 1) during cortical SWA. Confocal imaging confirmed the robust, selective, cre-dependent expression of Arch-GFP in STN neurons (Fig. 6A and Ca) and their axon terminals in the GPe (Fig. 6B and Cb). However, the use of this cre-driver line to virally express Arch-GFP in the STN precluded optogenetic identification of PV GPe neurons. The proportion of GPe neurons that responded to optogenetic inhibition of the STN was not significantly different in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice (vehicle: 62 % responsive, n = 23 of 37; 6-OHDA 70 % responsive, n = 21 of 30; p = 0.6076; Fisher's Exact). Optogenetic inhibition of STN neurons reduced GPe neuron activity in all responsive neurons in both vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice (Figs. 6D, 7A and Ba; vehicle: laser off = 14.3, 7.60-21.5 Hz; laser on = 7.90, 4.90-12.6 Hz; n = 23;  $p_{h4} = 9.54 \times 10^{-7}$ ; WSR; 6-OHDA: laser off = 17.8, 13.1-28.3 Hz; laser on = 15.6, 7.50-23.2 Hz; n = 21;  $p_{h3} = 8.58 \times 10^{-6}$ ; WSR). The firing rate of GPe neurons in vehicle-injected mice was not significantly different to those in 6-OHDA-injected mice (Figs. 6D, 7A and 7Ba; laser off:  $p_{h1} = 0.05722$ ; MWU); however, during optogenetic inhibition of the STN, GPe neuron firing rates were relatively elevated in 6-OHDA mice (Figs. 6D, 7A and 7Ba; laser on:  $p_{h2} = 0.02696$ ; MWU).

The firing of unidentified GPe neurons in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice prior to and during optogenetic inhibition of the STN was significantly more irregular in 6-OHDA-injected mice (Figs. 6D and 7Ba; vehicle: laser off CV = 0.606, 0.413-0.717; n = 23; 6-OHDA: laser off CV = 1.03, 0.723-1.27, n = 21;  $p_{h4} = 2.502 \times 10^{-3}$ ; MWU; vehicle: laser on CV = 0.737, 0.436-0.973; n = 22; 6-OHDA: laser on CV = 1.20, 0.903-1.37; n = 21;  $p_{h3} = 6.951 \times 10^{-3}$ ; MWU). During optogenetic

inhibition of STN neurons, the regularity of firing of responsive GPe neurons decreased in vehicle-injected mice but was not altered in 6-OHDA-injected mice (Figs. 6D and 7Ba; vehicle: laser off CV = 0.581, 0.410-0.711; n = 22; vehicle: laser on CV = 0.737, 0.436-0.973; n = 22;  $p_{h2} = 9.37 \times 10^{-3}$ ; WSR; 6-OHDA: laser off CV = 1.03, 0.723-1.27; n = 21; 6-OHDA: laser on CV = 1.20, 0.903-1.37; n = 21;  $p_{h1} = 0.1281$ ; WSR). During optogenetic inhibition of the STN, the in-antiphase spike probability of GPe neurons decreased in 6-OHDA- but was unaltered in vehicle-injected mice (Fig. 7B; vehicle: laser off = 1.18, 0.908-1.36; laser on = 1.11, 0.571-1.43; n = 22;  $p_{h2} = 1.000$ ; WSR; 6-OHDA: laser off = 1.02, 0.799-1.55; laser on = 0.781, 0.641-1.02; n = 21;  $p_{h4} = 0.01143$ ; WSR). Unidentified GPe neurons in dopamine-depleted GABRR3-cre mice were less antiphase than optogenetically identified PV GPe neurons in dopamine-depleted PV-cre mice. The reason for this difference could be inclusion of arky pallidal GPe neurons thought to fire in phase with cortical SWA following dopamine depletion and perhaps also non-PV-expressing prototypic GPe neurons, whose phase preference has not been well characterized (Mallet *et al.*, 2012; Abdi *et al.*, 2015).

To examine the impact of STN inhibition on PV GPe neuron firing, putative PV GPe neurons in 6-OHDA-injected mice were isolated from the unidentified population as for unidentified GPe neurons in A2A-cre mice on the basis of their in-antiphase spike probability. The firing rate of all putative PV GPe neurons decreased during optogenetic inhibition of the STN (Fig. 7Ca; 6-OHDA: laser off = 26.2, 20.3-33.9 Hz; laser on = 19.4, 15.3-27.9 Hz; n = 7; p = 0.01562; WSR). Unlike the unidentified population of GPe neurons, the irregularity of putative PV GPe neurons was elevated by optogenetic inhibition of the STN (Fig. 7Ca; 6-OHDA: laser off CV = 0.815, 0.509-1.3; laser on CV = 1.17, 1.03-1.93; n = 7; p = 0.01562; WSR). Lastly, all putative PV GPe neurons became more antiphase during optogenetic inhibition of the STN as evinced by a significant decrease in in-antiphase spike probability (Fig. 7C; 6-OHDA: laser off = 0.795, 0.670-0.811; laser on = 0.731, 0.280-0.781; n = 7; p = 0.01562; WSR). Overall, STN silencing enhanced antiphase firing in unidentified and putative GPe neurons in dopamine-

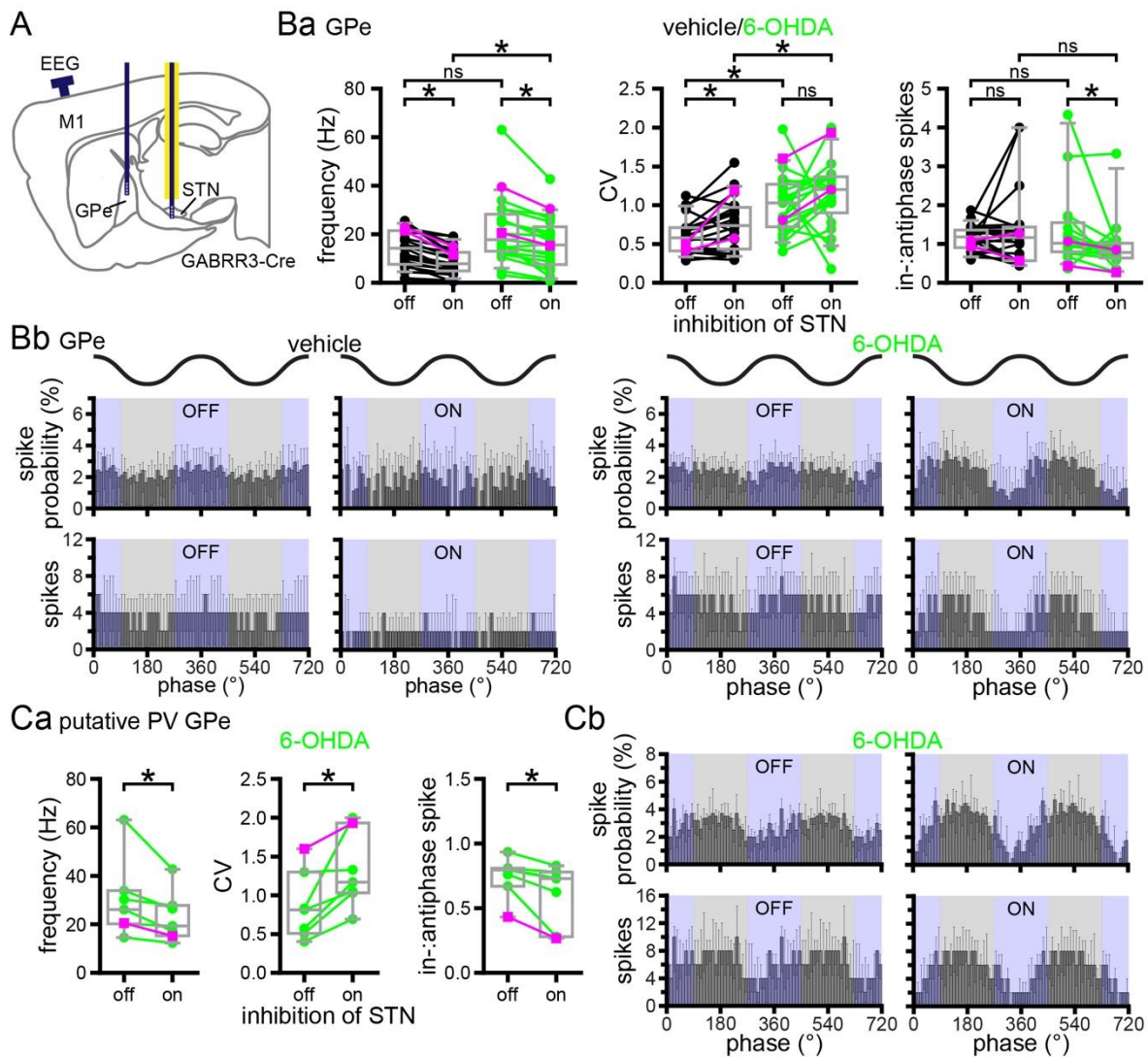
depleted mice, arguing that STN-GPe transmission opposes rather than facilitates the abnormal patterning of GPe neurons during cortical SWA.



**Figure 6. Effect of optogenetic inhibition of the STN on GPe activity**

A-C, histological verification of cre-dependent expression of Arch-GFP in STN-GPe neurons in GABRR3-cre mice. *Aa* and *Ba*, schematic representations of areas imaged in *Ab* and *Bb*, respectively (red box denotes the imaged subregion). *Ab*, *Bb*, and *C*, coronal sections illustrating expression of Arch-GFP (green) in STN neuron somata (*Ab* and *Ca*; arrows) and their axon terminals in the GPe (*Bb* and *Cb*). *Ca*, expression of Arch-GFP in HuC/D-immunoreactive (red) STN neurons.

*Cb*, Arch-GFP expressing STN axon terminals in the vicinity of HuC/D-immunoreactive (red; asterisks) GPe neurons. *D*, schematic representation of optrode and electrode placement (*Da*; dark blue line indicates electrode; yellow line denotes affixed optical fiber) and representative examples from vehicle- (*Db*) and 6-OHDA-injected (*Dc*) mice. Note that multi-unit STN activity is illustrated due to the greater difficulty of spike sorting individual STN units when recorded with an optrode versus a silicon tetrode without a fiber optic.



**Figure 7. Optogenetic inhibition of STN neurons decreases the firing rate of unidentified and putative PV GPe neurons and increases their antiphase activity in 6-OHDA-injected mice**

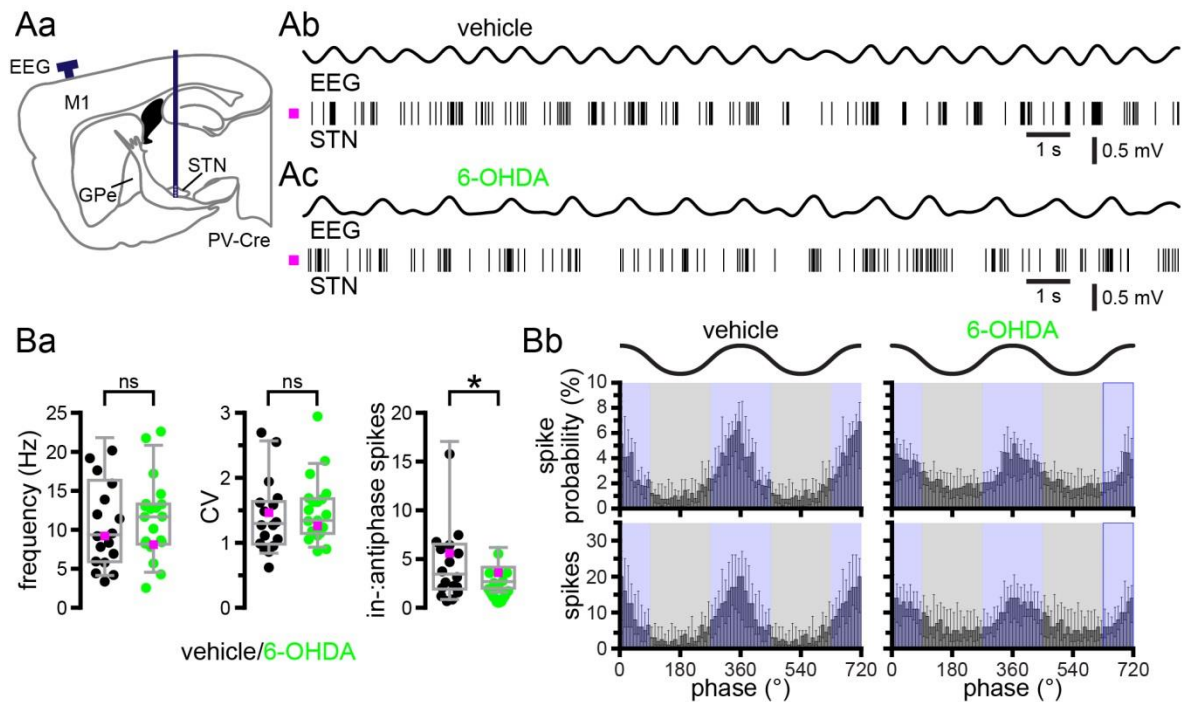
A-C, optogenetic inhibition of STN neurons in vehicle-injected GABRR3-cre mice reduced the firing frequency and firing regularity of unidentified GPe neurons (B). Inhibition of the STN also reduced the firing frequency and in-antiphase spike probability of unidentified (B) and putative PV GPe (C) neurons in 6-OHDA-injected mice. A, schematic representation of optrode and electrode placement (A; dark blue line indicates electrode; yellow line denotes affixed optical fiber). Ba and Ca,

population data of unidentified (*Ba*) and putative PV (*Ca*) GPe neurons; firing rate (left), CV (middle), and in-:antiphase spike probability (right); example data from Fig. 6D plotted in magenta. Note an extreme outlier was excluded from the 6-OHDA-injected mouse in-:antiphase plot for clarity (*Ba*; in- to antiphase spike probability ratio: laser off = 18.5, laser on = 7.0). *Bb* and *Cb*, linear phase histograms of unidentified (*Bb*) and putative PV (*Cb*) GPe neuron activity prior to and during optogenetic inhibition of STN neurons. \*,  $p < 0.05$ . ns, not significant.

## **Dopamine depletion reduces phase locking of STN neuron firing to cortical SWA**

Parkinsonian circuit activity in humans (Sharott *et al.*, 2014), monkeys (Soares *et al.*, 2004; Deffains *et al.*, 2016b), and rats (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Ni *et al.*, 2001; Walters *et al.*, 2007; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Ryu *et al.*, 2011; Tachibana *et al.*, 2011; Delaville *et al.*, 2015) is typically associated with alterations in STN activity, including relative entrainment to cortical rhythmic activity, increased phasic or burst firing, and overall hyperactivity. Thus, in urethane-anesthetized dopamine-depleted mice, we predicted similar changes in the rate and pattern of STN activity as those reported in equivalent rat studies. To assess the impact of dopamine depletion on the rate and pattern of STN activity, 30 s epochs of firing during robust cortical SWA were compared in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected PV-cre mice (Table 1). Similar proportions of STN neurons were responsive to optogenetic inhibition of PV GPe neurons in vehicle and 6-OHDA treated mice (vehicle: 82 %, n = 18 of 22; 6-OHDA: 84 %, n = 21 of 25; p = 1.000; Fisher's Exact). Dopamine depletion did not alter the firing rate (Fig. 8A, and Ba; SWA: vehicle = 9.38, 5.90-16.4 Hz; n = 18; 6-OHDA = 11.7, 8.17-13.3 Hz; n = 21; p = 0.7122; MWU) or CV (SWA: vehicle = 1.3, 0.979-1.64; n = 18; 6-OHDA = 1.35, 1.15-1.68; n = 21; p = 0.494; MWU) of responsive STN neurons. However, there was a significant reduction in in-antiphase spike probability following dopamine depletion (Fig. 8B; SWA: vehicle = 3.45, 1.92-6.54; n = 18; 6-OHDA = 1.69, 0.992-3.16; n = 21; p = 0.0148; MWU). These findings are in contrast to what has been reported in dopamine-depleted rats (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Mallet *et al.*, 2008a; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b) and unexpected given the emergence of phase-offset prototypic GPe neuron activity, but are consistent with downregulation of cortico-STN transmission strength in parkinsonian rats (Kita & Kita, 2011a; Wang *et al.*, 2018), mice (Chu *et al.*, 2017), and non-human primates (Mathai *et al.*, 2015) and downregulation of intrinsic excitability in rats and mice (Zhu *et al.*, 2002; Wilson *et al.*, 2006; McIver *et al.*, 2019).





**Figure 8. In 6-OHDA-injected mice phase locking of STN firing to cortical SWA is reduced**

A and B, although STN neuron firing rate and CV were unaffected by dopamine depletion, there was a significant reduction in in-:antiphase spike probability. A, schematic representation of electrode placement (Aa; dark blue line indicates electrode) mice and representative examples from vehicle- (Ab) and 6-OHDA- (Ac) injected PV-cre mice. Ba, population firing rate (left), CV (middle), and in-:antiphase spike probability (right); example data plotted in magenta; three individual outlier data points were not plotted for legibility (vehicle frequency outlier: 36.7 Hz; vehicle in-:antiphase spike probability outlier: 28.7; 6-OHDA in-:antiphase spike probability outlier: 50.2). (Bb) Population linear phase histograms. \*,  $p < 0.05$ . ns, not significant.

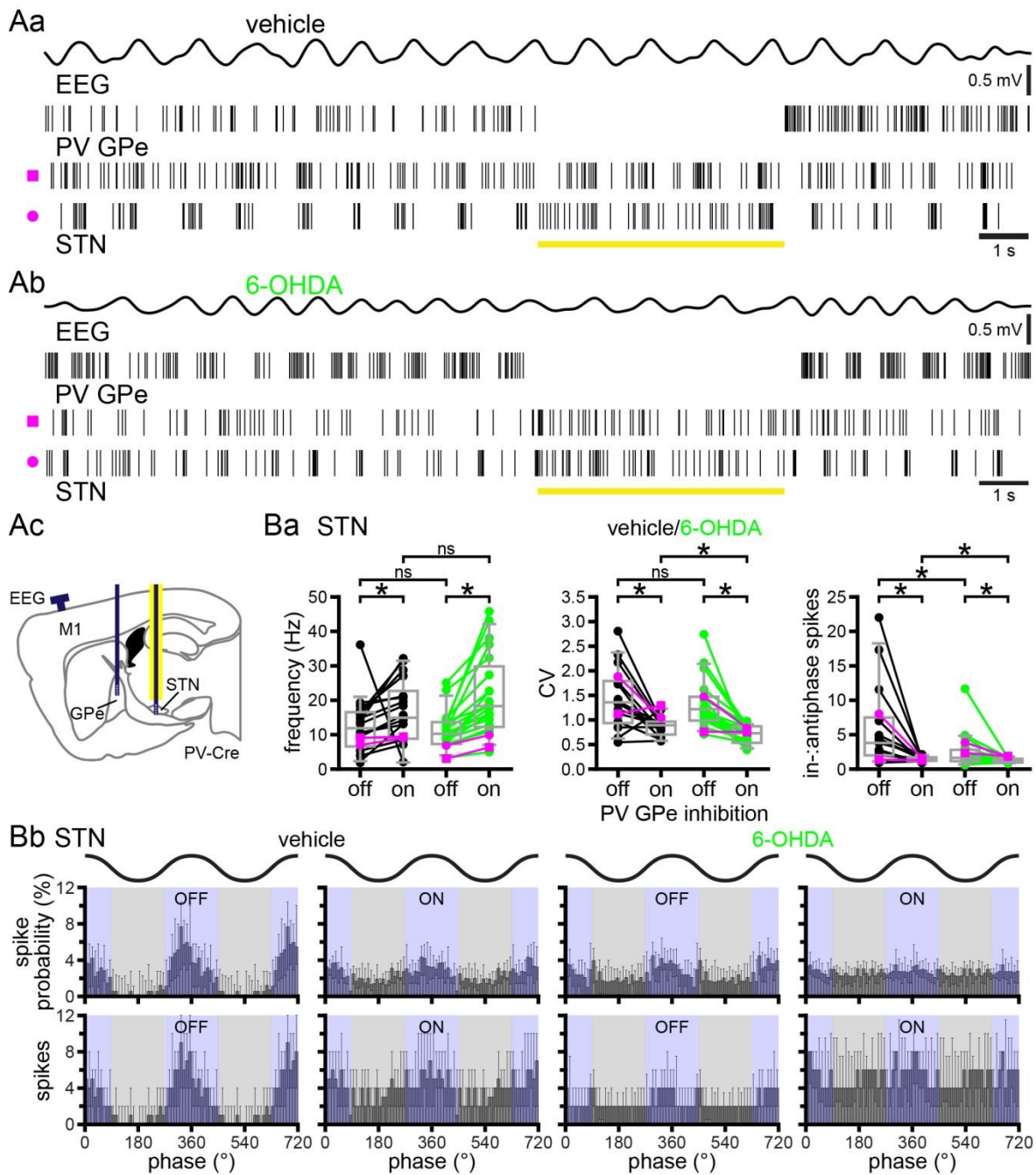
## **PV GPe neuron activity enhances STN neuron entrainment to cortical SWA in control- and dopamine-depleted mice**

To determine how alterations in the firing pattern, and intrinsic and synaptic properties of prototypic GPe neurons following the loss of dopamine (Fan *et al.*, 2012; Mallet *et al.*, 2012; Abdi *et al.*, 2015; Chu *et al.*, 2015; this study) affect their regulation of STN activity *in vivo*, the effects of optogenetically inhibiting Arch-GFP expressing PV GPe neurons for 5 seconds on STN neuron firing in control and dopamine-depleted mice (Table 1) were compared. The majority of responsive STN neurons were disinhibited during optogenetic inhibition of PV GPe neurons (vehicle: 72 %, n = 13 of 18; 6-OHDA: 100 %, n = 21 of 21, p = 0.6356; Fisher's Exact). Inhibition of a minority of responsive STN neurons during PV GPe neuron silencing in vehicle-injected mice may reflect disinhibition of GPe-STN neurons due to reduced lateral inhibition in the GPe (11 %, n = 2 of 18). The failure of a subset of STN neurons to respond to PV GPe neuron inhibition presumably reflects a failure to inhibit GPe neurons that were presynaptic to recorded STN neurons (vehicle: 18 %, n = 4 of 22; 6-OHDA: 16 %, n = 4 of 25). Given that STN activity was not recorded at sites where optogenetic inhibition of PV GPe neurons failed to elicit a response from at least one STN neuron, the proportion of STN neurons that did not respond to optical stimulation is likely to be higher than that reported here. During optogenetic inhibition of PV GPe neurons, the rate and regularity of STN firing increased in both vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice consistent with disinhibition of STN neurons (Fig. 9A and Ba; vehicle: laser off = 11.9, 6.58-16.6 Hz; laser on = 15, 8.88-22.7 Hz; n = 18;  $p_{h3} = 8.424 \times 10^{-3}$ ; WSR; laser off CV = 1.38, 1.04-1.82; laser on CV = 0.891, 0.704-0.968; n = 17;  $p_{h3} = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$ ; WSR; 6-OHDA: laser off = 10.3, 7.30-13.7 Hz; laser on = 18.3, 12.3-29.9 Hz; n = 21;  $p_{h4} = 3.815 \times 10^{-6}$ ; WSR; laser off CV = 1.22, 0.985-1.47; laser on CV = 0.727, 0.538-0.872; n = 21;  $p_{h4} = 7.628 \times 10^{-6}$ ; WSR). The firing rate of responsive STN neurons was not significantly different in dopamine-intact and -depleted mice in the absence of or during optogenetic inhibition of PV GPe neurons (Fig. 9A and Ba; laser off:  $p_{h1} = 0.4990$ ; MWU; laser on:  $p_{h2} = 0.4464$ ; MWU). Although the CV of STN neuron firing

was not altered by dopamine depletion alone, it was relatively reduced in 6-OHDA-injected mice during optogenetic inhibition of PV GPe neurons (Fig. 9A and Ba; vehicle: laser off CV = 1.36, 0.936-1.79, n = 18; 6-OHDA laser off CV = 1.22, 0.985-1.47; n = 21;  $p_{h1} = 0.770$  MWU; vehicle: laser on CV = 0.891, 0.704-0.968; n = 17; 6-OHDA: laser on CV = 0.727, 0.538-0.872; n = 21;  $p_{h2} = 0.02074$ ; MWU).

Inhibition of PV GPe neurons in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice also reduced STN in-:antiphase spike probability (Fig. 9B; vehicle: laser off = 4.05, 2.02-7.75; laser on = 1.45, 1.19-1.69; n = 16;  $p_{h4} = 1.709 \times 10^{-3}$ ; WSR; 6-OHDA: laser off = 1.64, 1.13-2.80; laser on = 1.17, 0.986-1.50; n = 21;  $p_{h3} = 6.453 \times 10^{-3}$ ; WSR). In 6-OHDA-injected mice, STN neurons also exhibited a reduced in-:antiphase spike probability relative to vehicle-injected controls both before and during optogenetic inhibition of PV GPe neurons (Fig. 9B; vehicle: laser off = 3.8, 1.98-7.50; n = 17; 6-OHDA: laser off = 1.64, 1.13-2.80; n = 21;  $p_{h2} = 0.03024$ ; MWU; vehicle: laser on = 1.46, 1.22-1.70; n = 17; 6-OHDA: laser on = 1.17, 0.986-1.50; n = 21;  $p_{h1} = 0.04414$ ; MWU). The reduced in-:antiphase spike probability of STN neurons in 6-OHDA mice is consistent with the downregulation of cortico-STN transmission strength in parkinsonian rats (Kita & Kita, 2011a; Wang *et al.*, 2018), mice (Chu *et al.*, 2017), and non-human primates (Mathai *et al.*, 2015). The additional decrease in in-:antiphase STN activity that occurred during optogenetic inhibition of PV GPe neurons in 6-OHDA-injected mice may reflect a reduction in post-inhibitory rebound neuron firing in the STN (Bevan *et al.*, 2002; Baufreton *et al.*, 2005; Hallworth & Bevan, 2005) when phase-offset inhibition from the GPe is suppressed (Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; this study; Mallet *et al.*, 2012). Interestingly, optogenetic inhibition of PV GPe neurons also significantly reduced in-:antiphase STN activity in dopamine-intact mice, arguing GPe-STN inhibition also enhances in-:antiphase STN activity under normal conditions, despite the fact that inhibition was less antiphase to cortical SWA. Together, these data argue that prototypic PV GPe neurons powerfully regulate the frequency and pattern of postsynaptic STN activity in both dopamine-intact and -depleted mice but their relative effects are difficult to decipher, presumably in part due to adaptive alterations in the intrinsic

and synaptic properties of STN neurons (Chu *et al.*, 2015; Mathai *et al.*, 2015; Chu *et al.*, 2017; Wang *et al.*, 2018; McIver *et al.*, 2019).



**Figure 9. Optogenetic inhibition of PV GPe neurons disinhibits STN neurons and reduces their phase locking to cortical SWA in both vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice**

A and B, optogenetic inhibition of PV GPe neurons increased the frequency and regularity of STN activity and reduced the in-:antiphase spike probability of STN

neurons (*B*) in vehicle- (*Aa*) and 6-OHDA- (*Ab*) injected PV-cre mice. *A*, representative examples (*Aa* and *Ab*) and schematic representation of optrode and electrode placement (*Ac*; dark blue line indicates electrode; yellow line denotes affixed optical fiber). *Ba*, Population data; firing rate (left), CV (middle), and in-:antiphase spikes (right); example data plotted in magenta symbols. *Bb*, Population linear phase histograms of STN activity relative to cortical SWA in vehicle- (left) and 6-OHDA-injected (right) mice prior to and during optogenetic inhibition of PV GPe neurons. \* $p < 0.05$ . ns, not significant.

## **Loss of dopamine profoundly alters the responses of D2-SPNs and prototypic PV GPe neurons to cortical ACT, whereas STN activity is relatively unaffected**

Dopamine depletion profoundly alters the response of the basal ganglia to pinch-evoked cortical ACT in rats (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Mallet *et al.*, 2008a; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Mallet *et al.*, 2012; Abdi *et al.*, 2015; Sharott *et al.*, 2017). Consistent with elevated striatopallidal transmission, rat D2-SPNs were hyperactive, GPe neurons were hypoactive, and STN neurons were hyperactive in 6-OHDA-injected rats during this brain state (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Mallet *et al.*, 2008a; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Mallet *et al.*, 2012; Abdi *et al.*, 2015; Sharott *et al.*, 2017). In addition, tail pinch-evoked sustained periods of cortical ACT, which were associated with exaggerated beta band activity in dopamine-depleted rats (Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Mallet *et al.*, 2012). To determine whether parkinsonian mice exhibit similar alterations, we compared the activities of D2-SPNs, PV GPe neurons, and STN neurons in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice during and following 5-second tail pinch-evoked cortical ACT (Magill *et al.*, 2001). However, prolonged periods of cortical ACT could not be induced in mice without clear signs of inadequate anesthesia. Therefore our study was restricted to the tail-pinch period. The failure to elicit prolonged cortical ACT may explain the absence of exaggerated beta band activity in dopamine-depleted mice (Tables 2 and 3). That said, exaggerated beta band activity has been rarely reported in the cortex or basal ganglia of awake dopamine-depleted mice, arguing that this activity pattern is simply less prominent in this model (Lobb & Jaeger, 2015; Willard *et al.*, 2019b). Prior to tail pinch, the firing rate of D2-SPNs during cortical SWA was elevated in 6-OHDA- versus vehicle-injected mice, as described above (Fig. 10A; vehicle: SWA = 2.5, 1.60-3.40 Hz; n = 34; 6-OHDA: SWA = 3.4, 2.10-7.80; n = 21;  $p_{h2} = 0.02476$ ; MWU). In response to cortical ACT, the firing rate of D2-SPNs in vehicle-injected mice decreased (Fig. 10A; vehicle: ACT = 0.300, 0.00-1.35 Hz; n = 34;  $p_{h3} = 1.751 \times 10^{-3}$ ; WSR), whereas in 6-OHDA-injected mice, D2-SPNs maintained their elevated rate of firing (Fig. 10A; 6-OHDA: ACT = 4.00, 2.10-9.60 Hz; n = 21;  $p_{h1} = 0.5578$ ;

WSR). As a result, the median firing rate of D2-SPNs during tail pinch-evoked cortical ACT was approximately 13 times greater in dopamine-depleted mice (MWU;  $p_{h4} = 2.656 \times 10^{-4}$ ).

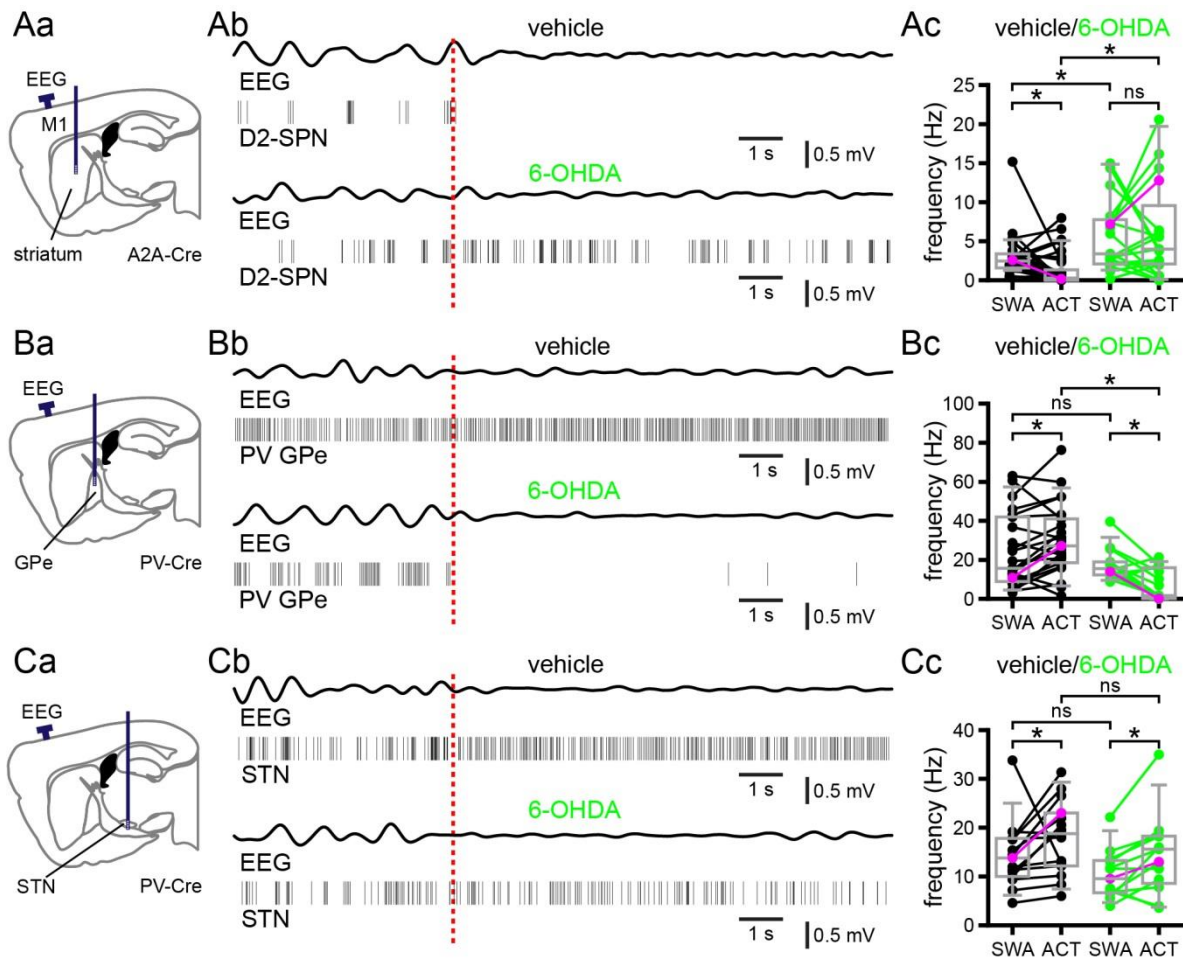
In addition, the spiking of D2-SPNs was relatively sustained during cortical ACT compared to cortical SWA-associated firing, as evinced by a reduction in CV in both control and dopamine-depleted mice (vehicle: SWA = 1.53, 1.21-1.78; ACT = 0.935, 0.229-1.29;  $n = 17$ ;  $p = 0.0147$ ; WSR; 6-OHDA: SWA = 1.87, 1.35-2.45; ACT = 0.955, 0.737-1.16;  $n = 18$ ;  $p = 0.0001$ ; WSR). These data are consistent with a recent study in rats (Sharott *et al.*, 2017) in which the firing of D2-SPNs was elevated in dopamine-depleted rats during prolonged cortical ACT.

Because D2-SPNs were relatively active in 6-OHDA-injected mice during cortical ACT, we hypothesized that the firing of downstream PV GPe neurons would be suppressed. Indeed, dopamine depletion profoundly altered the response of optogenetically identified PV GPe neurons to cortical ACT, consistent with earlier studies in rats (Fig. 10B) (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Mallet *et al.*, 2008a; Mallet *et al.*, 2012; Abdi *et al.*, 2015). In vehicle-injected mice, the firing of PV GPe neurons increased during cortical ACT (Fig. 10B; vehicle: SWA = 15.8, 9.00-42.0 Hz; ACT = 27.2, 18.6-41.0 Hz;  $n = 23$ ;  $p_{h2} = 0.02512$ ; WSR), whereas firing decreased in 6-OHDA-injected mice (Fig. 10B; 6-OHDA: SWA = 15.6, 12.4-19.0 Hz; ACT = 1.8, 0.20-16.0 Hz;  $n = 15$ ;  $p_{h3} = 3.48 \times 10^{-3}$ ; WSR). As a result, the frequency of PV GPe neuron firing during cortical ACT was considerably lower in dopamine-depleted mice; the median firing rate of PV-GPe neurons in 6-OHDA-injected mice was only 7% of that in vehicle-injected mice (Fig. 10B; ACT:  $p_{h4} = 1.31 \times 10^{-5}$ ; MWU)

Despite the hugely different firing rates of presynaptic PV GPe neurons, the frequency of downstream STN neuron activity 1) increased during tail pinch-evoked cortical ACT in both vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice; 2) the firing rates of STN neurons during cortical ACT were similar in dopamine-intact and -depleted mice (Fig. 10C; vehicle: SWA = 13.8, 10.0-17.8 Hz; ACT = 18.8, 12.2-23.0;  $n = 15$ ;  $p_{h3} = 0.03552$ ; WSR; 6-OHDA: SWA = 9.60, 6.70-13.3 Hz; ACT = 15.6, 8.6-18.3



Hz;  $n = 13$ ;  $p_{h4} = 0.0371$ ; WSR) (SWA:  $p_{h2} = 0.1407$ ; MWU; ACT:  $p_{h1} = 0.1589$ ; MWU). These data are in contrast to studies in rats (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Mallet *et al.*, 2008a; Mallet *et al.*, 2012). Thus, in dopamine-depleted mice, the activity of STN neurons during cortical ACT does not reflect the hypoactivity of upstream prototypic PV GPe neurons, presumably due to adaptive changes triggered by the loss of dopamine (Fan *et al.*, 2012; Chu *et al.*, 2015; Mathai *et al.*, 2015; Chu *et al.*, 2017; Wang *et al.*, 2018; McIver *et al.*, 2019).



**Figure 10. Effects of tail pinch-evoked cortical ACT on D2-SPNs, PV GPe neurons, and STN neurons in vehicle- and 6-OHDA injected mice**

A, in vehicle-injected, dopamine-intact A2A-cre mice D2-SPN activity decreased during cortical ACT relative to cortical SWA. In 6-OHDA-injected, dopamine-depleted mice D2-SPN activity was similar during cortical SWA and ACT. Thus the firing rate of D2-SPNs during cortical ACT was greater in 6-OHDA-injected mice. B, in vehicle-injected dopamine-intact PV-cre mice PV GPe neuron activity increased during cortical ACT, relative to cortical SWA. In 6-OHDA-injected, dopamine-depleted PV-cre mice, PV GPe neuron activity was suppressed during cortical ACT. C, STN neuron activity significantly increased during cortical ACT relative to SWA in both vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice. The rate of STN activity during cortical ACT was similar in dopamine-intact and -depleted mice. Aa, Ba, and Ca,

schematic representations of electrode placement (dark blue line indicates electrode). *Ab*, *Bb*, and *Cb*, representative examples of neuronal activity in D2-SPNs (*Ab*), PV GPe neurons (*Bb*), and STN neurons (*Cb*) in vehicle- (top) and 6-OHDA-injected (bottom) mice; onset of tail pinch denoted by dashed red line. *Ac*, *Bc*, and *Cc*, population firing rate data; examples plotted in magenta. \*,  $p < 0.05$ ; ns, not significant.

## Discussion

Although brain circuit activity under anesthesia does not recapitulate activity in awake behaving animals, this preparation enabled us to study 1) how dopamine depletion alters basal ganglia activity during multi-second periods of stereotyped cortical activity, which is informative given the emergence of excessively correlated cortico-basal ganglia-thalamocortical activity in PD 2) basal ganglia activity in the absence of movement-associated feedback signals, which given the perturbation of movement kinematics in parkinsonism, restricts the potential sources of abnormal firing. By combining this recording configuration with optogenetic identification and inhibition, we were able to not only measure the activity of specific classes of neuron in the basal ganglia but also to determine how each neuron type influenced its targets.

We demonstrated that during cortical SWA, abnormally antiphase firing of PV GPe neurons in 6-OHDA-injected mice was dependent in part on D2-SPN activity. Downregulation of autonomous PV GPe neuron firing was not observed following the loss of dopamine, and was therefore not responsible for the emergence of abnormally phasic and irregular PV GPe neuron activity *in vivo*. Despite the development of cortical SWA-associated, temporally offset activity in the GPe and STN in 6-OHDA-injected mice, the STN did not exhibit elevated firing. Furthermore, STN output opposed rather than facilitated abnormal, cortical SWA-associated GPe activity in 6-OHDA-injected mice. Finally, during cortical ACT in 6-OHDA-injected mice, D2-SPNs exhibited hyperactivity and PV GPe neurons exhibited hypoactivity, while the firing rate of STN neurons was unchanged relative to that in dopamine-intact control mice. Together, these data argue that in dopamine-depleted mice increased striatopallidal patterning is at least in part responsible for abnormal prototypic PV GPe neuron activity, and that despite being disinhibited, the STN does not exhibit hyperactivity, presumably due to cellular and synaptic adaptations triggered by the loss of dopamine.

Our finding that the firing rate D2-SPNs was elevated by approximately 73% and 1,333% during cortical SWA or ACT, respectively, in dopamine-depleted mice

relative to controls is consistent with 1) the loss of inhibitory dopaminergic modulation of cortico-D2-SPN transmission and D2-SPN excitability (Gerfen & Surmeier, 2011) 2) D2-SPN hyperactivity in the majority of studies in anesthetized rats (Mallet *et al.*, 2006; Ballion *et al.*, 2009; Sharott *et al.*, 2017) and in immobile mice (Parker *et al.*, 2018; Ryan *et al.*, 2018). Furthermore, if a larger proportion of D2-SPNs are silent in dopamine-intact mice, they would be invisible to electrophysiological detection. Thus, estimates of D2-SPN firing rate under control conditions reported here and in other studies may be relatively inflated. Excessive firing of D2-SPNs in immobile dopamine-depleted mice but not during movement could indicate that movement-associated D2-SPN activity is limited by reduced cortical drive and/or abnormal proprioceptive feedback, despite the best attempts of experimenters to control for these issues. Another possibility is that adaptive alterations in cortico-D2-SPN synaptic transmission and connectivity as well as alterations to the intrinsic excitability of D2-SPNs underlie the reduction of movement-related D2-SPN ensemble activity in dopamine-depleted mice (Day *et al.*, 2006; Mallet *et al.*, 2006; Taverna *et al.*, 2008; Fieblinger *et al.*, 2014; Escande *et al.*, 2016). However, why such homeostatic plasticity would not also limit cortical driving of D2-SPNs during cortical SWA, ACT, or periods of awake immobility currently remains unclear (Parker *et al.*, 2018; Ryan *et al.*, 2018).

Under normal conditions, GPe-STN network activity is largely irregular and de-correlated (Matsumura *et al.*, 1992; Wichmann *et al.*, 1994; Magill *et al.*, 2000; Arkadir *et al.*, 2004; Elias *et al.*, 2007). In PD and its models, GPe and STN neurons exhibit more numerous and robust pauses in firing and/or burst discharge, the occurrence of which may be correlated and coherent with cortical activity (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Walters *et al.*, 2007; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Tachibana *et al.*, 2011; Quiroga-Varela *et al.*, 2013; Sanders *et al.*, 2013; Delaville *et al.*, 2015). To determine how abnormal D2-SPN activity affects the GPe-STN network, we first examined the effects of dopamine depletion on PV GPe neurons – a subset of prototypic GPe neurons that represents over half of all GPe neurons, approximately 85% of prototypic GPe neurons, and the vast majority of STN

projecting neurons (Abdi *et al.*, 2015; Dodson *et al.*, 2015; Hernandez *et al.*, 2015). We focused on this GPe cell type because we were primarily interested in the impact of the GPe neurons on downstream STN activity. We found that following dopamine depletion, PV GPe neuron firing was relatively antiphasic to cortical SWA, as previously demonstrated in rats (Walters *et al.*, 2007; Zold *et al.*, 2007; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Abdi *et al.*, 2015). No accompanying change in firing rate was observed, consistent with the majority of these reports (Walters *et al.*, 2007; Zold *et al.*, 2012; Abdi *et al.*, 2015).

Given the phase offset of GPe neuron activity in dopamine-depleted rats relative to cortical SWA, D2-SPN, and STN activity, D2-SPNs were proposed to be responsible for increased antiphasic GPe neuron activity (Walters *et al.*, 2007; Nevado-Holgado *et al.*, 2014). Consistent with this proposition, pharmacological manipulations such as intrastriatal delivery of the NMDAR antagonist D-APV (Zold *et al.*, 2012) or the GABA<sub>A</sub>R agonist muscimol (Kita & Kita, 2011b), that suppress striatal activity and output, diminished antiphasic GPe activity. Given that D1-SPNs also provide a substantial collateral projection to the GPe (Kawaguchi *et al.*, 1990; Wu *et al.*, 2000; Fujiyama *et al.*, 2011; Cazorla *et al.*, 2014), it is possible that they also contribute to abnormal GPe activity. However, D1-SPN activity is suppressed in dopamine-depleted mice, arguing that their inhibition of GPe neurons may be less significant than that mediated by D2-SPNs (Mallet *et al.*, 2006; Escande *et al.*, 2016; Parker *et al.*, 2018). Here, we demonstrate that selective optogenetic inhibition of D2-SPNs was sufficient to rapidly and reversibly reduce antiphasic GPe neuron activity in dopamine-depleted mice, in a manner that was precisely time-locked to the 5 second period of optogenetic manipulation. Thus, D2-SPNs are key to the generation of abnormal GPe activity in the dopamine-depleted state (Migueluez *et al.*, 2012; Zold *et al.*, 2012; Escande *et al.*, 2016; Lemos *et al.*, 2016; Parker *et al.*, 2018; Ryan *et al.*, 2018). That said, antiphasic GPe activity was not completely eliminated, possibly because the presynaptic D2-SPN population was only partially inhibited due to the spatially restricted nature of optogenetic stimulation and less than 100 % expression of Arch-GFP in D2-SPNs. PV GPe

neurons also exhibited dramatic hypoactivity during cortical ACT in dopamine-depleted mice. This finding is consistent with the hugely elevated and relatively sustained activity of D2-SPNs in this brain state, as reported here and in analogous studies of identified striatopallidal neurons (Sharott *et al.*, 2017) and unidentified (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Mallet *et al.*, 2008) and prototypic (Abdi *et al.*, 2015) GPe neurons in rats. The convergence of large numbers of D2-SPNs onto a much smaller population of GPe neurons suggests that changes in the rate and/or synchrony of D2-SPN activity could greatly affect the patterning of GPe activity. Thus, the 73% and 1333% greater activities of D2-SPNs in 6-OHDA-injected mice versus vehicle-injected control mice during cortical SWA and cortical ACT, respectively, are likely to contribute to the aberrant patterning of the GPe. However, other factors may also be important. Following the loss of dopamine, increased recruitment of D2-SPNs may contribute. Loss of D2 receptor-mediated regulation of D2-SPN transmission probability is another potential major factor, which could greatly influence the activity-dependent dynamics and thus impact of striatopallidal transmission (Chuhma *et al.*, 2011; Miguez *et al.*, 2012; Lemos *et al.*, 2016; Chazalon *et al.*, 2018). Although, non-selective optogenetic stimulation of striatopallidal inputs did not reveal substantial changes in synaptic properties (Miguez *et al.*, 2012), it is not yet clear whether dopamine-depletion triggers alterations in D2-SPN inputs to prototypic PV GPe neurons. Finally, inhibitory striatopallidal patterning may be less effectively counteracted by STN excitation, due to reduced cortical driving of STN activity and reduced STN-GPe synaptic transmission following the loss of dopamine (Kita & Kita, 2011a; Mathai *et al.*, 2015; this study; Chu *et al.*, 2017).

Previous studies suggested that dopamine depletion-triggered downregulation of GPe HCN channels causes a reduction in autonomous firing, which leaves GPe neurons more susceptible to entrainment by synaptic inputs (Chan *et al.*, 2011; Shouno *et al.*, 2017). However, another study reported that only Npas1 GPe neurons, the majority of which are arkypallidal neurons that project to the striatum, exhibit downregulated activity (Hernandez *et al.*, 2015). Here, we

found that the autonomous activity of PV GPe neurons was significantly upregulated in 6-OHDA-injected mice, consistent with upregulated autonomous and post-inhibitory rebound firing in a subset of unidentified GPe neurons in 6-OHDA-injected rats (Miguel *et al.*, 2012). Therefore, loss of intrinsic activity cannot contribute to the abnormal phasic interruption of PV GPe neuron firing in dopamine-depleted mice *in vivo*. The upregulation of autonomous firing in PV GPe neurons presumably represents a homeostatic response to elevated D2-SPN-GPe transmission in dopamine-depleted mice, which may contribute to the maintenance of PV GPe neuron firing rates during cortical SWA. That said, in dopamine-depleted mice upregulated autonomous firing was clearly insufficient to prevent PV GPe neuron hypoactivity during sustained cortical ACT and D2-SPN hyperactivity. The mechanisms underlying the upregulation of autonomous PV GPe neuron firing have yet to be elucidated but could be triggered by alterations in the activation of postsynaptic Ca<sub>v</sub>1 channels that report spiking activity (Chan *et al.*, 2011) or NMDARs that report the strength of synaptic excitation (c.f. McIver *et al.*, 2019).

In urethane-anesthetized rats STN neurons discharge in phase with cortical SWA due to direct cortical excitation (Magill *et al.*, 2000, 2001; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b). Despite the emergence of antiphase PV GPe neuron activity and disinhibition of STN neurons at the time that they are receiving cortical excitation, the activity of STN neurons was not elevated in dopamine-depleted mice. The mean frequency of STN activity in vehicle- and 6-OHDA-injected mice was similar and the ratio of in phase to antiphase STN activity decreased modestly but significantly in dopamine-depleted mice. A similar picture emerged during cortical ACT, although the frequency of PV GPe neuron activity was dramatically reduced in 6-OHDA-injected mice, the frequency of STN activity was similar in dopamine-intact and -depleted mice. These data are in contrast to some (Magill *et al.*, 2001; Wichmann *et al.*, 2002; Soares *et al.*, 2004; Walters *et al.*, 2007; Mallet *et al.*, 2008b; Tachibana *et al.*, 2011; Delaville *et al.*, 2015; Deffains *et al.*, 2016a) but not other (Ni *et al.*, 2001; Ryu *et al.*, 2011) *in vivo* recording studies of STN activity in rat and monkey PD models. Why is the STN not hyperactive in parkinsonian mice



when the frequency of presynaptic PV GPe neuron firing is reduced (Atherton *et al.*, 2013)? One possible explanation is the engagement of homeostatic synaptic and cellular plasticity triggered by the loss of dopamine. Thus, following degeneration of midbrain dopamine neurons, GPe-STN inputs proliferate (Fan *et al.*, 2012; Chu *et al.*, 2015) and cortico-STN inputs are lost (Mathai *et al.*, 2015; Chu *et al.*, 2017; Wang *et al.*, 2018), leading to an approximately 4-fold reduction in the strength of synaptic excitation versus inhibition in the STN. Furthermore, the autonomous activity of STN neurons is downregulated (McIver *et al.*, 2019). These alterations are NMDAR-dependent and can be generated in dopamine-intact mice through chemogenetic activation of D2-SPNs and subsequent disinhibition of the STN or through application of exogenous NMDA *ex vivo* (Chu *et al.*, 2015; Chu *et al.*, 2017; McIver *et al.*, 2019). In dopamine-depleted mice, plasticity induced by chemogenetic activation of D2-SPNs is occluded (Chu *et al.*, 2017; McIver *et al.*, 2019). Thus, following the loss of dopamine, enhanced D2-SPN transmission leads to reduced firing of GPe neurons at the same time the STN receives synaptic excitation from hyperdirect pathway cortical inputs, which leads to increased activation of STN NMDARs that in turn triggers compensatory synaptic and cellular adaptations. As a result, the impact of cortical excitation on STN activity is downregulated both *ex vivo* and *in vivo* (Kita & Kita, 2011a; Mathai *et al.*, 2015; this study; Chu *et al.*, 2017). It has been suggested that enhanced hyperdirect pathway patterning contributes to oscillatory entrainment of the basal ganglia in PD and its models (Moran *et al.*, 2011; Tachibana *et al.*, 2011; Pavlides *et al.*, 2015) but our results and recent studies that demonstrate that cortico-STN input is strongly downregulated in mice, rats, and monkeys (Kita & Kita, 2011a; Mathai *et al.*, 2015; Chu *et al.*, 2017; Wang *et al.*, 2018), argue against this thesis. Indeed, if hyperdirect cortical input was sufficient to pattern parkinsonian STN activity it should be more apparent during inhibition of PV GPe neurons, but in fact we found the opposite to be the case. In 6-OHDA-injected mice, inhibition of PV GPe neurons almost entirely eliminated phase locking of STN activity to cortical SWA,

consistent with the idea that patterning of STN activity by the indirect pathway relative to the hyperdirect pathway is elevated in parkinsonism.

The reciprocally connected GPe-STN network has been suggested to be a generator of pathologically correlated cortico-basal ganglia-thalamocortical activity in PD (Moran *et al.*, 2011; Tachibana *et al.*, 2011; Shouno *et al.*, 2017). Indeed, lesion (Bergman *et al.*, 1990), electrical stimulation (Benabid *et al.*, 2009; Wichmann *et al.*, 2018), pharmacological (Levy *et al.*, 2001; Tachibana *et al.*, 2011), optogenetic (Yoon *et al.*, 2014; Mallet *et al.*, 2019 in press; Mastro *et al.*, 2017), genetic (Chu *et al.*, 2017; Zhuang *et al.*, 2018), and chemogenetic (Assaf & Schiller, 2019; McIver *et al.*, 2019) manipulation of the GPe and/or STN have demonstrated that disrupting their pathological activity can ameliorate motor dysfunction in PD and its models. Interestingly, we found that optogenetic inhibition of STN activity facilitated rather than ameliorated abnormal antiphase GPe neuron activity during cortical SWA, arguing that STN-GPe transmission *opposed* the abnormal patterning of the GPe by indirect pathway D2-SPNs in dopamine-depleted mice. Although the rate and pattern of STN activity were not significantly altered by dopamine depletion, the emergence of temporally offset prototypic GPe activity may cause the GPe-STN network to more powerfully synchronize basal ganglia output neurons in PD (Lobb & Jaeger, 2015; Mastro *et al.*, 2017; Willard *et al.*, 2019a). Thus, increased patterning of GPi/SNr could occur through alternating bouts of concurrent 1) GPe inactivity and STN activity, both of which should elevate basal ganglia output; 2) GPe activity and STN inactivity, which should inhibit basal ganglia output. Indeed, manipulations that oppose the patterning of GPe (and STN) neurons by D2-SPNs e.g. optogenetic activation of PV GPe neurons (Mastro *et al.*, 2017), chemogenetic activation of the GPe (Assaf & Schiller, 2019), and chemogenetic and genetic manipulation of the STN (Chu *et al.*, 2017; Zhuang *et al.*, 2018; McIver *et al.*, 2019) ameliorate motor dysfunction in PD models.

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## **Additional information**

### *Competing Interests*

The authors declare that no competing interests exist.

### *Author contributions*

*In vivo* and *ex vivo* experiments were performed at Northwestern University and University of Bordeaux, respectively. M.D.B, R.F.K, and J.W.C conceived of the study. R.F.K, J.W.C., and M.C. acquired the data and were joined in analysis and interpretation by M.D.B., J.B. and D.L.W. The first draft of the manuscript was generated by R.F.K. and M.D.B. All authors contributed meaningfully to revision and intellectual content, approved the final manuscript and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work. All listed authors are qualified for authorship and all those who qualify are listed.

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